The Herald-Palladium
hp

SJ stops yard waste collection

Local, A3

BOOK RECREATES TV FOODS

Food, A5

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Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Kevin Hester, pastor at The Shore Church in St. Joseph, walks past a camera Tuesday as he pauses while filming for an online worship service.

Keeping the faith

How local churches are surviving – and in some ways thriving – during a pandemic

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

Hester says his church has been forced to move Sunday worship services to Facebook Live due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The silver lining is that he and other area pastors say their online attendance keeps growing.

Whether their congregations are large or small, area church pastors say the hardest part about the social distancing mandates is not being able to connect in person with their church members.

But they are finding ways to stay connected, and some say online church attendance keeps growing every week.

Kevin Hester is pastor of The Shore Church in St. Joseph. His church is fairly new and his congregation is relatively small, but close-knit.

"It's extremely hard for me," Hester said. "We have members in the hospital and in nursing homes, and I'm used to be able to see them, encourage them, hold their hands and pray with them. That's all been taken."

But like other pastors, he's finding innovative ways to connect with his congregation.

"I'm grateful for the technology we have. I've been fairly tech-savvy, and we've always used some technology, but this has pushed us into using more, and we've actually reached way more people then before," Hester said.

Other pastors said they, too, have found new, innovative ways to connect with their flocks since the COVID-19 outbreak has forced people to stay at home.

Caleb Hoskins, worship pastor at Summit Church in Niles, said 600 to 700 people typically attend Sunday services. But Summit had to cancel in-person services as of March 15, the first weekend that the government put in place a mandate that no more than 250 people could gather in one place.

"We started streaming services. We did an audio service on our own website for March 15, and started streaming full video worship on Facebook and YouTube as of March 22. We pre-record the services, then

See **FAITH**, page A10

State GOP congressmen pressure Whitmer on latest order

Directive is now 'far too restrictive,' they say

By CRAIG MAUGER and BETH LEBLANC
The Detroit News

LANSING — Michigan's six Republican U.S. House members are urging Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to amend her latest stay-at-home order, which they label "far too restrictive."

In a letter released Tuesday, the six lawmakers say the Democratic governor's order includes provisions "that seem arbitrary and internally inconsistent."

"Instead of needlessly shutting down large sectors of the economy and further restricting the lives of residents, we believe amending Executive Order 2020-42 can achieve our shared goal of protecting public health while also beginning the slow process of resuscitating our economy," the letter concludes.

U.S. Reps. Jack Bergman, R-Watersmeet, Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland, John Moolenaar, R-Midland, Paul Mitchell, R-Dryden, Fred Upton, R-St. Joseph and Tim Walberg, R-Tipton, all signed on to the letter.

U.S. Rep. Justin Amash, I-Cascade Township, a former Republican, has separately criticized the order on social media. That means half of Michigan's 14 U.S. House members have problems with the order.

In response to the letter, the governor's office noted 1,602 people have died from the virus.

"The governor is doing everything she can to protect public health and safety," said Whitmer's spokeswoman Tiffany Brown. "We're going to get through this, but the best thing we can do right now is stay home and stay safe to save lives."

U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Dearborn, defended Whitmer in a separate campaign email headlined "Humanity and Compassion" and said the governor's decisions were "tough, but necessary" to flatten the curve.

"Hospitals in Southeast Michigan are able to stay caught up or even ahead of the crisis, with many hospitals reporting that they currently have enough beds and ventilators for those who need them," Dingell said. "We are also protecting rural communities from outbreaks, where health care systems are not

See **RESTRICTIVE**, page A2

Four Winds lays off almost 1,500 due to virus

By JAMES DAVID DICKSON
The Detroit News

NEW BUFFALO — A tribal casino system in Michigan has laid off almost 1,500 employees as it has closed for business during the coronavirus outbreak.

Four Winds Casinos has three gambling facilities in Michigan – in New Buffalo, Hartford and Dowagiac – and one in South Bend, Indiana.

"There is no intention that positions will be terminated," wrote Frank Freedman, chief operating officer of Four Winds, in a letter to state officials warning of the layoffs, which affect 1,489 people.

Freedman's letter cites the coronavirus outbreak specifically.

"Due to the rapid onset of COVID-19, for the safety and well-being of the employees, the casino has suspended services and is not open to the public," Freedman wrote.

While the date of its reopening remains unknown, all laid-off employees will be called back when it does, the letter says.

The 1,489 positions laid-off represents the largest WARN notice filed in Michigan this year, as the coronavirus and the state's attempts to contain it, which include a "stay-at-home" order has resulted in "non-essential" workplaces, particularly those where people congregate in large numbers, being closed for the time being.

Detroit's three casinos have been closed since March 16. As a whole, the three casinos were down almost 19 percent in revenue in the first quarter of 2020.

For the first three full months of 2020, 50 WARN notices for 8,932 jobs were reported, according to the state. That compares to 27 notices for 6,914 jobs in 2019, and 9 notices for 1,226 jobs in 2018.

After Four Winds Casinos, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit has filed the second-biggest WARN notice in Michigan, for 1,318 jobs.

Do-It Corp. does it – converts to making face shields

South Haven company retools machinery

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — Do-It Corp.'s prime business is making hang tabs for retailers to display their products. Now, however, the South Haven-based company is joining other manufacturers across the United States that are retooling machinery to produce much-needed medical equipment to protect first responders and health-care workers from coronavirus.

The company has designed and is now producing low-cost, disposable plastic face shields.

"This item is right in our wheelhouse," Do-It President Mark McClendon said. "We are ready to quickly and inexpensively produce a face shield that can be used one time, as needed, and then disposed."

Do-It classifies its new product as an "economy face shield." It is not intended to be considered as surgical- or medical-grade personal protection equipment. Rather, the shields are designed for use by first responders, food service workers, nursing home care workers and health care workers at COVID-19 testing stations, retail cashiers and non-intensive care, non-surgical healthcare workers, according to company officials.

The clear face shield's design is based closely on one created by New York University's COVID-19 Task Force to address the critical supply shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) among health care workers around the world, according to McClendon.

To manufacture the face shields, Do-It is using existing materials, equipment and production methods and is capable of making thousands of face shields each week, according to John Deschaine, director of marketing for Do-It.

"We are able to produce 100,000 or more of these shields each week and could produce more if needed," Deschaine said.

See **DO-IT CORP.**, page A2

John Deschaine, marketing director for Do-It Corp. in South Haven, is shown wearing one of the face shields the company is now producing to protect first responders and health care workers from the spread of coronavirus.

Photo provided

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 42 Low 35

6 50645 49085 0

AP POOL

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer addresses the state during a speech in Lansing, Monday. The governor said the state has tough days ahead in its fight against the coronavirus pandemic, but a return to normalcy is "on the horizon."

Michigan tops 27,000 virus cases; deaths up to 1,768

By DAVID EGGERT and ED WHITE
Associated Press

LANSING — Michigan will offer relief to struggling bars and restaurants by buying back their unopened booze during the coronavirus pandemic.

Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed an order in a flurry of moves late Monday.

She also delayed the expiration of valid driver's licenses and state ID cards to June 30. Whitmer extended the ban on sit-down meals at restaurants and continued the closure of many places of public accommodation through April 30.

More than 8,000 businesses will have until Friday to request that the Liquor Control Commission buy back spirits purchased before March 16. The bottles will stay in place for now to limit the risk of spreading the virus.

The liquor can be purchased again after emergency rules end. Whitmer said the program will help bars and restaurants "weather the storm through this challenging time in our history."

The data

Michigan's number of confirmed coronavirus cases rose 5 percent to 27,001. Deaths from COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the virus, increased by 166, or 10 percent, to 1,768.

Beaumont Health in southeastern Michigan said it had 865 COVID-19 patients, down from Monday, with 194 more awaiting test results. Henry Ford Health System reported 655 patients, a slight rise.

The state health department loosened testing criteria Tuesday by allowing people with mild symptoms to get a nasal swab.

"Expanded testing is needed to learn more about how COVID-19 is spreading in our state," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive.

LOTTERIES

Tuesday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
AH-5C-6D-8D-7S
Midday Daily 3
3-4-6
Midday Daily 4
9-8-9-8
Daily 3
9-3-4
Daily 4
4-3-9-8
Fantasy 5
07-16-20-21-30
Estimated jackpot
$156,000
Keno
01-04-05-06-08-09-12-18-20-22-24-26-28-32-35-44-53-54-56-61-66-72
Mega Millions jackpot
$145 million
Powerball jackpot
$22 million

Monday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
13-29-33-40-44
Estimated jackpot
$210,000
Cash4Life
08-21-54-56-59, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
01-04-07-08-10-12-16-21-25-26-29-37-38-40-41-52-54-55-61-79, BE: 52
Daily Three-Midday
0-1-9, SB: 1
Daily Three-Evening
0-1-1, SB: 9
Daily Four-Midday
7-2-6-4, SB: 1
Daily Four-Evening
2-3-6-0, SB: 9
Quick Draw Evening
02-09-12-13-21-24-25-27-32-33-39-43-46-48-52-58-59-65-73-75, BE: 59

Illinois
Lotto
04-28-31-37-38-50, Extra Shot: 11
Estimated jackpot
$8.5 million
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
29-35-39-41-42
Estimated jackpot
$350,000
Pick Three-Midday
5-2-9, Fireball: 9
Pick Three-Evening
5-3-9, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Midday
6-8-2-2, Fireball: 2
Pick Four-Evening
5-9-7-7, Fireball: 6
Lucky Day Lotto
18-21-29-37-43
Estimated jackpot
$350,000

– The Associated Press

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Trump directs halt to payments to WHO during virus pandemic

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

Alex Brandon / AP

President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the Rose Garden of the White House Tuesday in Washington.

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he was cutting off U.S. payments to the World Health Organization during the coronavirus pandemic, accusing the organization of failing to do enough to stop the virus from spreading when it first surfaced in China.

Trump, who had telegraphed his intentions last week, claimed the outbreak could have been contained at its source and that lives could have been saved had the U.N. health agency done a better job investigating the early reports coming out of China.

"The WHO failed in its basic duty and must be held accountable," Trump said at a briefing. He said the U.S. would be reviewing the WHO's actions to stop the virus before making any decision on resuming aid.

There was no immediate comment from the Geneva-based organization on Trump's announcement. But when asked about possible U.S. funding cuts during a regular U.N. briefing earlier Tuesday, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris responded, "Regardless of any issues, our work will go on."

Trump said the U.S. will continue to engage with the WHO in pursuit of "meaningful reforms."

The United States contributed nearly $900 million to the WHO's budget for 2018-19, according to information on the agency's website. That represents one-fifth of its total $4.4 billion budget for those years. The U.S. gave nearly three-fourths of the funds in "specified voluntary contributions" and the rest in "assessed" funding as part of Washington's commitment to U.N. institutions.

A more detailed WHO budget document provided by the U.S. mission in Geneva showed that in 2019, the United States provided $452 million, including nearly $119 million in assessed funding. In its most recent budget proposal from February, the Trump administration called for slashing the U.S. assessed funding contribution to the WHO to $57.9 million.

More than 125,000 deaths worldwide, including more than 25,000 in the U.S., have been blamed on the coronavirus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Last week, Trump blasted the WHO for being "China-centric" and alleging that it had "criticized" his ban on travel from China as the COVID-19 outbreak was spreading from the city of Wuhan.

The WHO generally takes care not to criticize countries on their national policies, and it was not immediately clear what specific criticism Trump was alluding to.

Asked Tuesday about the appropriateness of seeking to cut the WHO's funding in the middle of a worldwide viral outbreak, Trump said the review would last 60 to 90 days.

DO-IT CORP.

From page A1

The company's first shipment of 200 face shields was delivered earlier this week to South Haven Area Emergency Services.

"Our desire is to initially focus on our community and Southwest Michigan first," Deshaine said. "We are now getting the word out and answering questions from people all around the world."

Each box that Do-It ships contains 100 each of face shields, forehead straps and head straps. Also included in the box is an assembly instruction sheet. In addition, the company has created a YouTube video to show people how to quickly assemble the mask.

The company repurposed two existing Do-It Products, normally used to make plastic carry handles to create the face shields.

The clear plastic face shield does not have anti-fog, anti-glare or anti-scratch coatings. Instead it is designed to attach to a person's head to allow for ventilation around the forehead to limit any potential fogging of the mask.

This isn't the first time Do-It has produced something for use by industries now considered highly essential during the coronavirus pandemic, according to company officials.

Since 1973, the company has been designing and producing plastic retail display components to various industries around the world including ones that provide food, medical supply and personal care products.

"This mask fits our core business really well," McClendon said. "We were looking for a way to help fight this virus. We believe that this mask can be helpful to first responders or anyone who has to work with the public during this coronavirus emergency."

RESTRICTIVE

From page A1

equipped for major outbreaks."

In their letter, the six Republicans say Whitmer was right to issue her initial executive order on March 23 to slow the spread of COVID-19.

But her latest order, which is in effect until the end of the month and was issued last Thursday, expanded on the initial restrictions by further limiting people's travel between residences and by requiring large stores to cordon off their garden, furniture and paint sections.

Whitmer's new order also didn't adopt the latest federal guidance on who qualifies as "critical infrastructure workers." The new federal guidance expanded who can go to work during the COVID-19 crisis to include people like landscapers and those involved in home construction.

The governors of Ohio and Indiana included the new guidance when they issued their extended stay-at-home orders. Twenty of the 26 states used the most recent federal guidance when extending their stay-home orders, Republican Michigan House Speaker Lee Chatfield of Levering tweeted Friday.

During a Thursday news conference, Whitmer said the state needed to "double down" to save lives. More than 1,600 people in the state have already died with COVID-19. Michigan has the fourth most cases of the virus nationally.

"While we can come up with all sorts of scenarios where we can make an argument that someone is safe in whatever activity it is they want to do, every single exception to a Stay Home, Stay Safe order makes this more porous and makes it less likely to work," Whitmer said Thursday.

However, The Republicans said under Whitmer's new order, some entire sections of stores are closed while "while customers can still access other areas of the same building."

"Some prohibited activities that never require close contact with other individuals during normal operations are now prohibited entirely," the letter adds.

The lawmakers say the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has "issued clear guidance to mitigate the transmission of the virus."

"By following this guidance businesses can ensure people remain six feet apart, properly sanitize, set up sneeze guards and protective barriers, promote proper handwashing and cleaning techniques for their employees, while also protecting customers with similar guidelines," the lawmakers said. "Individuals can practice proper social distancing and mitigation techniques while avoiding activities that jeopardize the health of themselves or others."

More than 216,000 people have signed a petition calling for Whitmer's recall to protest the first-term Democratic governor's closing and banning of non-essential businesses and activities. The petition created about three weeks ago gained more than 100,000 signatures in the past few days.

"She has lied since day one with her #Fixthedamnroads which she has failed to do anything in this regards," the change.org petition said. "The response to #PFAS was negligence and completely removing funding for #PureMichigan clearly shows her lack of anything positive for the State of Michigan."

John Powell, who started the petition, declined a Tuesday interview request.

However, he did share this statement with The Detroit News:

"Ask Whitmer why is that I can buy weed, liquor and lottery tickets but can't plan vegetables or go fishing to feed my family," Powell wrote. "Where should I go to get food?"

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★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center that comes to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

★ Please read our weekly "The Veterans Voice" article in MailMax Newspaper to learn more about additional benefits for veterans and dependents. Let us be of service to you for your service.

hp LOCAL

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SJ city manager: 'The end of this will come'

City stops yard waste collection to comply with state

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The city of St. Joseph has ceased a handful of its operations over the past few weeks in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief among them has been the city's collection of yard waste.

During Monday's virtual city commission meeting, City Manager John Hodgson gave an update on what services are deemed essential and which ones didn't make the cut, based on the state's public health recommendations.

"It's an ever-changing target. We're still working to learn the ramifications and regulations as they come out," Hodgson said. "I appreciate what our employees have done to respond in these challenging circumstances. We're still trying to get public work done and to keep moving forward."

Hodgson said he appreciates how accepting residents have been with the changes the city has had to make on short notice.

"My principal focus is, and will continue to be, to provide the essential services we need to protect our residents," he said. "Our first responders are still out there making public safety and fire calls. Our water plant operators are providing services and we're continuing to pick up rubbish and recycling."

Hodgson acknowledged there have been some changes in how the city's yard waste, leaf and brush is picked up. He said those services were halted based on the governor's executive order.

City officials are still deciphering the executive order regarding composting, Hodgson said.

"We're not certain whether we can resume these different types of collections," he said. "One of the big challenges on yard maintenance has been whether contractors can take care of people's yards."

Hodgson confirmed homeowners can still maintain their own yards. However, until the city has a handle on removing leaves and brush, Hodgson requested residents keep all brush on the property and refrain from placing them in the gutter.

Mayor Pro Tem Laura Goos reminded residents to keep recyclable material clean while the city continues to navigate added measures from the coronavirus.

"You don't have to disinfect anything with bleach, but just a quick wash to make sure there are no food scraps on any recyclables," Goos said. "Otherwise it will just go to the landfill, especially now because workers cannot touch it."

Other city precautions

Hodgson said the city's parks are still open, with the exception of a few facilities, such as restrooms.

He said workers haven't put in any parking meters and don't plan on doing that for some time.

The city buildings will remain closed to the public and only available for essential operations that need to be done in person.

"The end of this will come," Hodgson said. "We will be looking to bring our economy back. We will look for quick action in a return toward normalcy."

In the midst of all the changes, Hodgson said he and his staff are still working to put together a fiscal budget by July.

"Budgets can be amended. This isn't the time to sharpen the pencil so much on something that may or may not happen two or three years from now," he said. "We need to focus on getting through the events before us. We're going to work through this uncertain period."

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SPRING STROLL

Don Campbell / HP staff

A walker strolls past a Sargent cherry tree, in full bloom Monday afternoon on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs.

HARTFORD

Marijuana dispensary owner frustrated by lack of April meeting

Recreational sales can't start until ordinance finalized

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

HARTFORD — The owner of the medical marijuana facility in Hartford is asking city officials to rethink their decision to not hold a city commission meeting in April.

"Every day that goes by that we aren't adult use is hurting the city," Med+Leaf Owner Doug Von Koenig said this week.

Hartford did the first reading of its proposed recreational marijuana ordinance in February and expected to do the final reading at its March meeting, which was also postponed.

Med+Leaf, the city's only medical marijuana dispensary, has been ready to start recreational marijuana sales since that March meeting, according to Von Koenig. The business has pre-approval from the state and just needs the city ordinance in place.

The city's notice that it will not hold an April meeting states: "City of Hartford Mayor Richard Hall finds no agenda item on the April council meeting agenda that is necessary to sustain or protect life and has declared the city's regular scheduled council meeting on April 27 be postponed until a future date yet to be determined."

Von Koenig argues that Hartford is violating Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's executive orders and a meeting could be held virtually, as is allowed.

In a letter to city officials Saturday, shared with The Herald-Palladium, Von Koenig says he believes the city's intentions are good, but that he and his attorney believe the city is failing to meet a portion of an executive order that states, "These public bodies and entities must continue to conduct public business during this emergency ..."

Hartford officials had not responded to Von Koenig's letter, or to The HP for comment, by Tuesday evening.

In Hartford's notice that it would not hold an April meeting, it cited part of an executive order that states, "All in-person government activities at whatever level (state, county, or local) that are not necessary to sustain or protect life, or to supporting those business and operations that are necessary to sustain or protect life are suspended."

Von Koenig offered, in his letter to the city, help in setting up a virtual meeting, as many other municipalities have been doing.

"Given how easy it is to hold a public meeting virtually, and our offer to help them do it, this is very frustrating to us," Von Koenig told The HP. "Our vision is to help Hartford grow as our business grows and we need them to get on board with virtual meetings now. Business as usual during this pandemic won't work."

He said that in addition to not being able to start recreational marijuana sales, the city not approving the ordinance has kept the business from hiring two employees that it needs to hire, as well as kept the city from participating in the recreational marijuana tax pool that's set aside for municipalities.

Von Koenig said he'd really like to get those two employees hired, because he'd be hiring residents of Hartford.

"And as we know, a lot of people are out of work right now," he said.

Without meeting in March or April, the ordinance might not be approved until Hartford's May meeting, set for May 18, unless another meeting is scheduled between now and then.

Med+Leaf has moved to curbside pickup since the coronavirus pandemic, as it offers curbside pick-up.

"It is working well," Von Koenig said. "I'm very proud of how our patients have adapted to this new (and hopefully temporary) reality."

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

IN BRIEF

Van Buren County sees second COVID-19 death

There have now been two deaths from COVID-19 in Van Buren County, according to state numbers released Tuesday afternoon.

In addition, the county has 22 positive COVID-19 cases, the same as reported Monday.

In Berrien County, there are now 111 positive cases of COVID-19, a rise from the 105 reported Monday.

Out of those 111 positive cases, five have died and 65 have recovered.

Cass County still has one death, with 13 positive cases, up from 11 reported Monday.

The state and county health departments update the number of positive COVID-19 cases at 3 p.m. each day. For state numbers, visit www. michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Local numbers and information can be found at www.bchdmi.org, and at www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

LMC extends campus closures, summer term start

By HP STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Lake Michigan College is extending the date for its campuses to re-open in response to Michigan's updated stay-at-home executive order.

LMC campuses in Benton Harbor, Niles and South Haven first closed to the public on March 20. They were originally scheduled to re-open to the public on Tuesday. The new scheduled public opening date is May 11.

This latest measure follows a decision to extend remote learning for students through the rest of the spring semester.

The college originally transitioned its in-person, face-to-face classes to be delivered remotely beginning on March 23, with a plan for students to return to campus on Tuesday.

Now students will participate in remote learning through the duration of the spring semester, which ends May 1.

The college has also adjusted its summer term schedule.

Originally, summer classes were scheduled to begin on May 11. Now the summer term will begin on June 8 and end on Aug. 20.

For the first time, all summer classes will be delivered through remote learning.

LMC continues to accept new applicants for the summer and fall semesters. Course registration dates for the summer and fall semesters open on Monday, April 27 for veterans and to all other students on Tuesday, April 28.

The college will continue to offer most of its services to current and prospective students remotely during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

The re-opening dates for LMC's indoor exercise and child-care facilities is yet to be determined.

For more information, visit the LMC COVID-19 response webpage at www.lakemichigancollege.edu/covid19.

SOUTH HAVEN

City OKs work on Dyckman Ave. bridge

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — Since late fall of 2019 city officials here have nervously kept their eye on the Dyckman Avenue bridge's hydraulic system, wondering if it will continue to function properly as water continues to rise on Lake Michigan and the Black River.

Now, with the end of the winter season, city officials can finally address the potential failure of the structure that allows motorists access to the city's north side, and for boaters, access to Lake Michigan.

Council members on Monday made the decision to pay Grand Rapids-based Strain Electric $19,380 to raise two metal cabinets that house motors that operate the bridge's hydraulic system. The cabinets are located underneath the bridge's deck, close to the water. If the motors are damaged by the water, the bridge's two spans will not be able to be lifted for boat traffic or lowered for vehicles.

Work on the bridge is expected to begin April 20.

"We're proceeding with making improvements to the bridge to ensure that service will continue during the upcoming summer season," City Manager Brian Dissette said.

City officials became quite concerned about the bridge following fall and winter storms in 2019 that caused significant flooding along the lakeshore and the Black River, where the bridge is situated.

One particular flooding incident occurred in late November.

"On this occasion we had a combination of high winds and rain and the river experienced a back-up or surge for a period of time. This surge caused the river to rise above the bottom of the HPU cabinet doors, City Engineer Mike Dopp said in a memo to the city council. "The cabinets are sealed and stayed water tight during this surge event, but staff would not advise relying on the seals for any prolonged period of time. Since this event occurred, staff has not witnessed the water rise this high again, but it may at some point during this next summer or fall."

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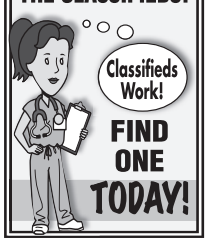

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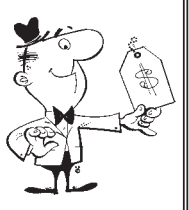

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Get involved in groups that interest you. The payback for your contributions will be good. You will learn from people with more experience than you and find ways to improve your position and your personal life if you are diligent and dedicated. Romance is featured.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you do your best, you will get plenty in return. A connection you make will help you revise or update your resume. Personal gain is within reach.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An offer will lead to unexpected complications. Don't make a snap decision without ironing out the particulars. Ask pertinent questions and back away if you notice discrepancies.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Travel, participate in events and gather information. A personal change should be well-thought-out and within your budget. Channel your energy into fitness and educational pursuits. Romance is in the stars.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Joint ventures will not be as beneficial as anticipated. Someone will take advantage of you if you are too eager to please. Nervous tension and anxiety will lead to stomach problems.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Gather information, look at all the facts and sit tight until you feel comfortable making a move. Base decisions on what's doable, and stick to a practical plan.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Head in a direction that will encourage personal growth and education. Don't make decisions based on your emotions. Avoid arguments and protect yourself against financial loss.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A simple cost-efficient lifestyle will help you ease stress. Don't take on problems that don't belong to you. Concentrate on finishing what you start, physical improvement and romance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Slow down. You are best off living with what you've got until you figure out what's best. Look for a creative project that promotes friendship.

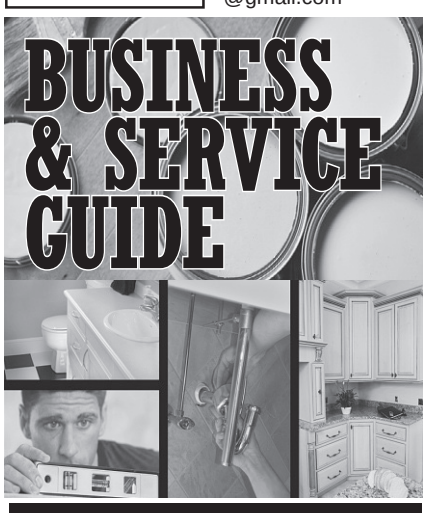
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Keep your life simple, move forward at a steady pace, and avoid indulgent or meddlesome individuals. Make improvements to your living quarters or arrangements.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Uncertainties surrounding travel or relationships with friends or relatives will arise. Do more listening and less talking to avoid being seen as controlling. Work on personal growth instead of trying to change others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You will receive information that will help you avoid a risky venture. If you work with what you have, you'll get things done on time and within budget. Romance is in the stars.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Don't ignore orders or turn a blind eye to mandatory changes. Consider what you can do to improve your community, relationships and reputation. Consider your motives before you alter your life.

BUSINESS & SERVICE GUIDE



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HOUSE HUNTING?
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hp FOOD

Book brings television, movie foods to life

Jane Ammeson

I've been doing some serious TV binging. I'm almost finished with "The Good Wife," and have made it to the fourth season of "Game of Thrones."

For something lighter than lawyers and warring factions of a mythical world slugging it out, I'm also re-watching "30 Rock," a series about a dysfunctional TV show centered around its creator/writer Liz Lemon (played by Tina Fey) and her boss, Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin).

The last episode I caught was "Sandwich Day." There are numerous subplots, but the main story lines are about Liz's relationship with her ex-boyfriend, Floyd, who has moved to Cleveland and is in New York, where the series is set; and these special sandwiches, only available one day a year, that were sent to the crew by the Teamsters.

Liz spends the year obsessing about these sandwiches, and is totally devastated when she discoverers one of the writers ate hers. It takes a lot of effort, but Liz gets a second sandwich as she's hurrying to the airport to see Floyd before he flies back to Cleveland.

Unfortunately, the sandwich won't make it through security, and Liz has a tough choice – eat the sandwich or work things out with Floyd.

The show definitely made me want to try that sandwich, but I also wondered, "Are there really Teamster sandwiches, are they really that good, and where would I get one?"

Fortunately Andrew Rea has the answer to these questions.

The creator of Binging with Babish – a YouTube channel on which he recreates recipes featured in movies, TV shows and even video games – now has a cookbook, "Binging with Babish: 100 Recipes Recreated From Your Favorite Movies and TV Shows," with recipes inspired by "Elf," "Mad Men," "Friends," "Game of Thrones" and others.

Fortunately for me, and the internet population searching for the sandwiches, he included that recipe in the book, as well as one for Prison Gravy, which Paulie makes when locked up in "GoodFellas."

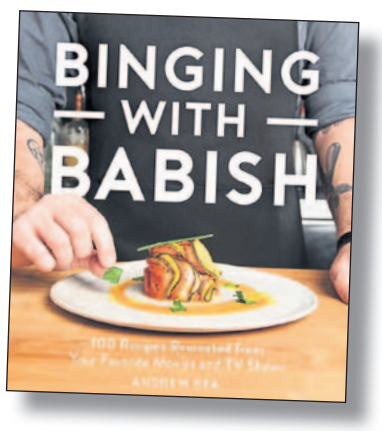
Who knows if I'll ever get to Fiore's House of Quality in Hoboken, N.J., where the sandwiches are made, but now, thanks to Rea, I can make them at home – if I can find all the ingredients.

Also, a note on the recipe, the Teamster Sandwich calls for standing rib roast – an expensive cut that's probably not readily available right now. For flavor and tenderness, standing rib roasts are hard to beat, but you can substitute a top loin roast, thinly cut New York strip steaks, flank steak or sirloin tip roast. Though it won't be an official Teamster Sandwich, it'll be close enough.

The following recipes are from "Binging With Babish."

Photos provided / Evan Sung

Dipping Sticks, above left, and Prison Gravy, above right, are featured in Andrew Rea's book, "Binging With Babish: 100 Recipes Recreated From Your Favorite Movies and TV Shows," below.



Teamster Sandwich

Serves 4, plus enough extra beef to serve 4. Inspired by "30 Rock."

- 1 standing rib roast with 3 ribs attached (about 10 pounds)
- 1 tablespoon dried rosemary
- 1 tablespoon dried thyme
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
- 1 tablespoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more for seasoning
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 4 cups beef stock, warmed
- 1 (15-ounce) jar roasted red peppers, drained
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 whole baguette
- 8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, sliced

Heat the oven to 500 degrees.

Using a long, thin knife, slice the ribs off the roast in one slab. Reserve the slab of ribs. Score the fat cap of the roast at 1-inch intervals in a crosshatch pattern.

In a small food processor, combine the rosemary and thyme, and process for 15 seconds, or until finely ground. (Alternatively, pound the rosemary and thyme in a mortar and pestle until finely ground.) Transfer to a small bowl, and whisk in the salt, pepper, onion powder and garlic powder. Liberally coat the roast all over with the spice mixture. Drizzle with olive oil and rub it into the roast.

Place the roast on its slab of ribs, which will act as a natural roasting rack. Tie the ribs back onto the roast, looping a piece of butcher's twine between each bone and securing it with a knot.

Insert a temperature probe into the thickest part of the beef, transfer to a large stainless-steel roasting pan, and roast for 25 minutes.

Reduce the oven temperature to 300 degrees, and roast for 30-60 minutes more (depending on the size of the roast), until the internal temperature registers 115 degrees. Remove from the oven, transfer the roast to a carving board, tent with aluminum foil, and let rest for 30 minutes.

Reserve the drippings and 1/3 cup of the fat in the roasting pan. Set the pan over medium-high heat and whisk in the flour until a slurry forms. Cook for 1 minute, or until the raw flour smell dissipates.

While whisking continuously, stream in the stock, and whisk until completely incorporated. Cook until slightly reduced, 2 to 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

Wrap the roast in plastic wrap, transfer the jus to an airtight container, and refrigerate both for at least 4 hours, or ideally overnight.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, toss the roasted peppers with the garlic. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours, or ideally overnight.

Reheat 2 cups of the jus in a medium saucepan until simmering (reserve the rest for another use). Divide the hot jus among four small bowls.

Without cutting all the way through, split the baguette lengthwise and open it up like a book. Using a long, thin knife, slice 24 ounces of the beef as thinly as possible and layer onto the baguette. Top with the mozzarella and marinated peppers.

Cut the sandwich into 4 equal pieces, transfer to plates, and serve each piece with a bowl of hot jus alongside for dipping.

Prison Gravy

Serves 12. Inspired by "GoodFellas."

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 pound sweet Italian sausage
- 1 pound hot Italian sausage
- 1 pound bone-in beef shank
- 1 pound veal neck bones with some meat attached
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, plus more if needed
- 3 garlic cloves, sliced paper-thin with a single-edged razor blade
- 3 small onions, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 3 (28-ounce) cans whole peeled DOP San Marzano tomatoes, with their juices, crushed with a wooden spoon or run through a food mill
- 2 large sprigs fresh basil
- 1 large carrot, cut into thirds
- 1 pound meatballs, cooked
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 pounds durum semolina pasta (preferably with ridges, such as rigatoni), cooked al dente, for serving
- Butter, for serving (optional)
- Freshly grated Parmesan cheese, for serving (optional)

In a large nonreactive pot, heat the vegetable oil over medium-high heat until shimmering.

Sear the sausage, beef and veal in batches until well browned and fond (the layer of cooked-on browned bits) has formed on the bottom of the pot, about 5 minutes. Transfer the meat to a plate and set aside.

In the same pot, heat the olive oil until shimmering. Add the garlic, and cook for 30 seconds, until softened. Add the onions and tomato paste, and cook, stirring, until the onions are translucent, about 2 minutes.

Add the wine, stirring and scraping up all the browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Pour in the tomatoes and their juices, and return the browned meats to the pot. Add the basil and carrot, and bring the sauce to a bare simmer.

Reduce the heat, and let the sauce simmer for about 4 hours total, stirring and scraping the bottom occasionally (don't let anything stick, it will scorch and ruin your sauce). Add the meatballs for the final hour of cooking.

Discard the carrot and bones, and season the sauce with salt and pepper. For each serving, coat some freshly cooked pasta with a spoonful of sauce; stir in butter or olive oil for a richer sauce. Top with some of the meat and more "gravy," sprinkle with Parmesan, and serve.

The sauce can be frozen for up to 2 months, and reheats well.

Dipping Sticks

Serves 6. Inspired by "Breaking Bad."

- 1 (1/4-ounce) packet active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup nonfat dry milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 17 1/2 ounces all-purpose flour (about 4 cups plus 2 tablespoons), plus more for dusting
- 3 teaspoons kosher salt, divided
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- Butter-flavored nonstick cooking spray
- 1/4 cup powdered Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- Marinara sauce, warmed, for dipping

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine the yeast, dry milk, sugar and warm water. Mix on low speed until combined, then let rest for 10 minutes, or until foamy.

Replace the paddle with the dough hook. Add the flour, 1 teaspoon salt and 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, and knead on medium speed for 5-8 minutes, until a tacky, smooth ball of dough forms.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface, pressing and stretching it out into a 9-by-13-inch rectangle.

Pour the remaining 1/3 cup vegetable oil into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Place the dough on top, pressing and stretching it until the dough fills the dish. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise at room temperature for 60-90 minutes, until doubled in size.

Heat the oven to 475 degrees.

Remove the plastic wrap and, using a bench scraper, cut the dough in the baking dish into 13 or 14 equal sticks, each about 1 inch wide and 9 inches long. Generously spray the tops with cooking spray.

In a small bowl, combine the Parmesan, garlic powder, onion powder, oregano, basil, pepper and remaining salt. Sprinkle evenly over the dough sticks and bake for 15-20 minutes, until puffed up and brown.

Using a large spatula, transfer the dipping sticks to a wire rack and let cool for 10 minutes. Separate the sticks, transfer to a platter, and serve with the warmed marinara sauce.

Jane Ammeson can be contacted via email at janeammeson@gmail.com or by writing to Focus, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085.

Quarantine bakers are making flour into a hot commodity

By LYDIA MULVANY and MICHAEL HIRTZER
Bloomberg News (TNS)

The art of baking at home, while not exactly lost, has been on a decline as Americans slowly shifted from eating in to dining out.

But with more than 90 percent of the U.S. under some form of stay-at-home order due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it appears that an increasing number are dusting off old recipes for breads, pastries, cookies and cakes.

As a result, baking staples can be hard to find at grocery stores these days as society finds comfort in carbohydrates.

Sales of baking yeast were up 457 percent over last year for the week ending March 28, according to Nielsen data.

Flour was up 155 percent, baking powder up 178 percent, butter up 73 percent and eggs up 48 percent.

Americans are "home baking more than ever before," said Kelly Olson, a spokeswoman for Red Star Yeast. The company said the demand spike was unexpected and it's doing all it can to replenish empty store shelves. "We hope to have availability at retailers back to normal within a few weeks."

Flour makers haven't been spared in the chaos.

Central Milling, with locations in Utah and California, said on its website that "significant" increases in online orders have led to out-of-stock items. Bob's Red Mill, a Milwaukie, Ore.-based company known for its wide selection of grains and flours, also posted a note to customers on its website describing an "unprecedented" surge in demand.

Kentucky-based Hopkinsville Milling Co., is packing twice as much flour as normal, according to company president Robert Harper. This is usually a slow time of year for the mill, which sells mostly self-rising wheat-based flour and corn meal.

Home bakers tend to slack off as winter turns to spring, but about three weeks ago, the orders started pouring in.

"It started to look like Thanksgiving and Christmas all rolled into one," Harper said. "People have time on their hands and are trying to save some money."

While restocking of grocery shelves isn't happening as fast as consumers are buying, there's no actual shortages – though the global food supply chain is beginning to fray in other areas.

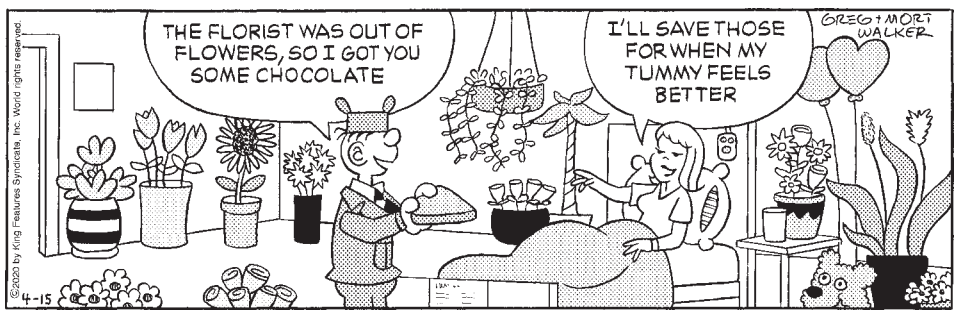
"Here in the U.S., our wheat supplies would be considered abundant at this point," said Erica Olson, market development and research manager at the North Dakota Wheat Commission. Bare shelves are a logistics problem, not a supply issue. "People were rushing to buy flour they may or may not use, and the mills were not prepared for that."

The disconnect between what is produced in American fields and what ends up in the baking aisle is a temporary blip, she said.

Home baking began dropping off in the 1960s, and today, with many households having two working parents, there's less time for even basic meal preparation, never mind baking.

Now, stuck at home and trained to perform for social media, Americans are posting pictures of their edible triumphs under hashtags like #isolationbaking and #lockdownbaking. The influx of artfully-staged food photos has already sparked backlash, even among food writers.

BEETLE BAILEY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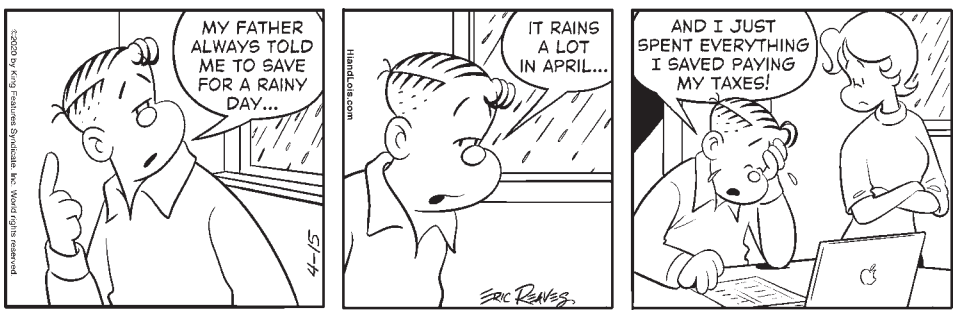
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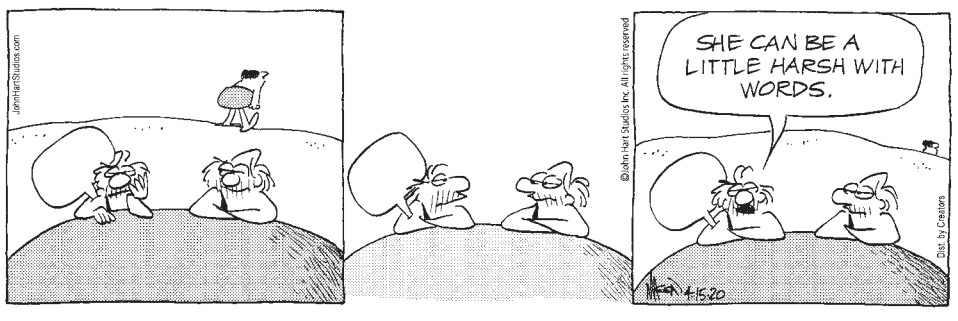
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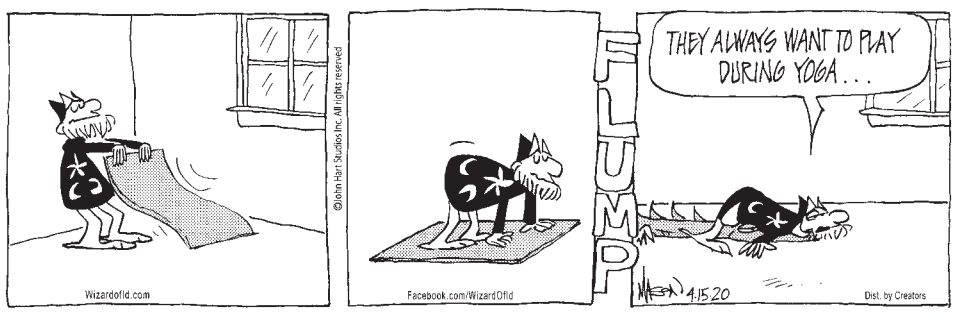

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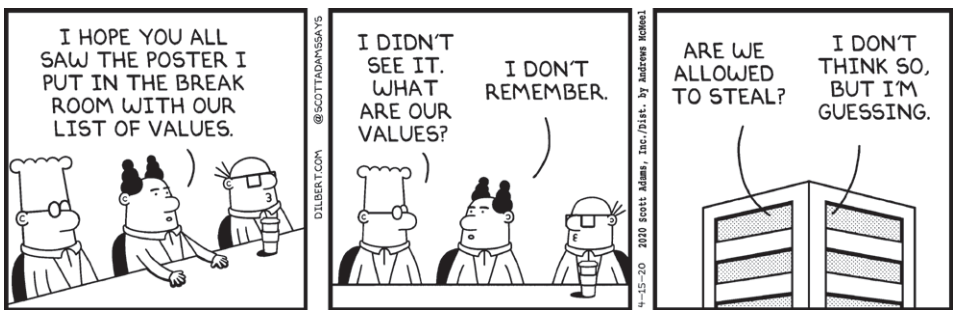
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AND?
IT'S OVERRATED.
WHEN DID YOU STOP BEING IN IT?
MY THIRD YEAR OF SIXTH GRADE.
WHY ASK WHY
OH NO
NO TALENT
AA RP
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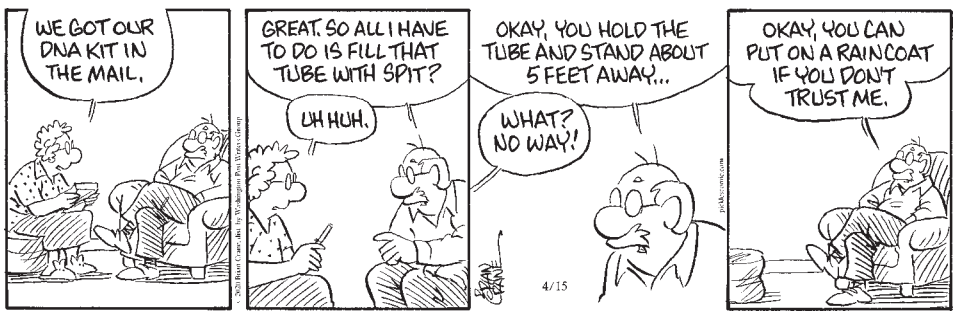
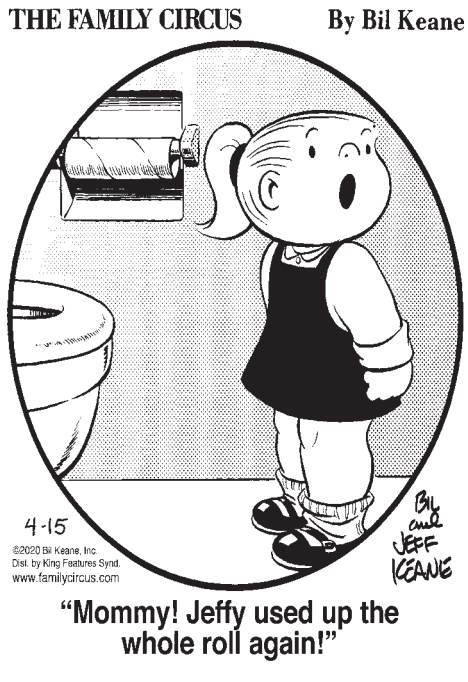
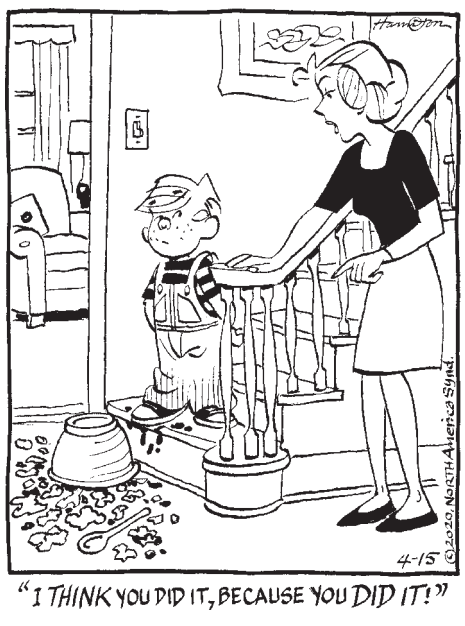
PICKLES


WE GOT OUR DNA KIT IN THE MAIL.
GREAT. SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FILL THAT TUBE WITH SPIT?
UH HUH.
OKAY, YOU HOLD THE TUBE AND STAND ABOUT 5 FEET AWAY...
WHAT? NO WAY!
OKAY, YOU CAN PUT ON A RAINCOAT IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME.
4/15

FAMILY CIRCUS



DENNIS THE MENACE



BABY BLUES

SO, WHERE ARE THEY HAVING THIS BACHELOR PARTY?
AT THIS REALLY COOL PLACE DOWNTOWN.
IT'S A BAR WHERE YOU DRINK AND THROW AXES!
GEE, WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG THERE?
THEY OFFER COMPLIMENTARY FIRST AID.
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babyblues.com

CURTIS

THIS IS MRS. NELSON'S FATHER AND I WANNA HEAR MY BABY GIRL'S HEALTH CONDITION! AND RIGHT NOW, HEAR?!
DEEP VOICE
NO, I DON'T KNOW HER FIRST NAME... NO, I DON'T KNOW HER BIRTHDATE... JUST LEMME HEAR SOMETHING, HEAR?!
DEEP VOICE
4-15
I CAN'T REPEAT WHAT I HEARD.
BACK TO REGULAR CURTIS VOICE
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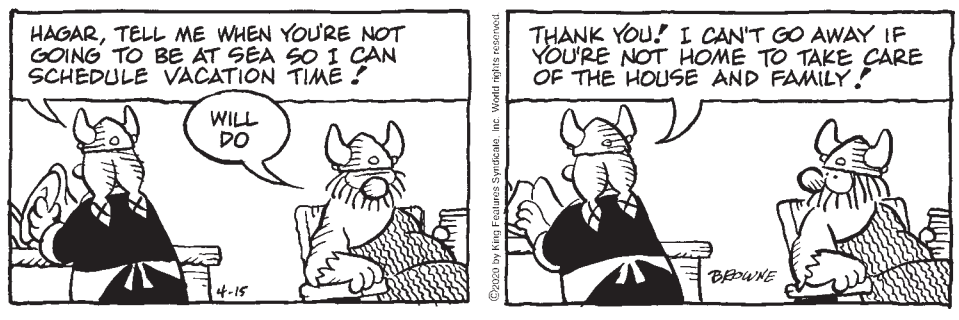
ZITS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


HAGAR, TELL ME WHEN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE AT SEA SO I CAN SCHEDULE VACATION TIME!
WILL DO
4-15
THANK YOU! I CAN'T GO AWAY IF YOU'RE NOT HOME TO TAKE CARE OF THE HOUSE AND FAMILY!
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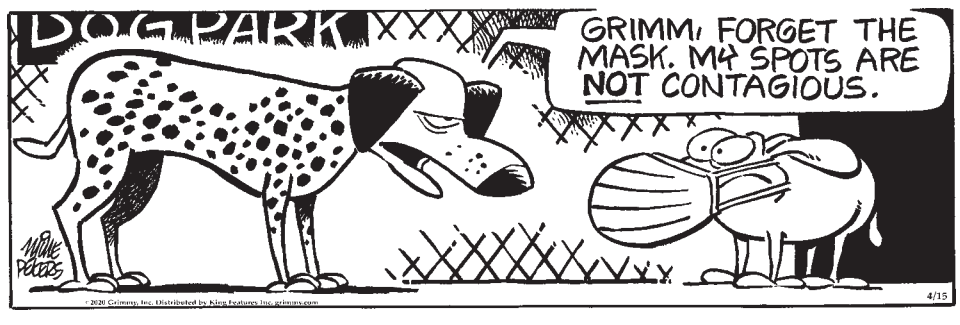
BROWNE

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM


DOG PARK
GRIMM, FORGET THE MASK. MY SPOTS ARE NOT CONTAGIOUS.
MIKE PETERS
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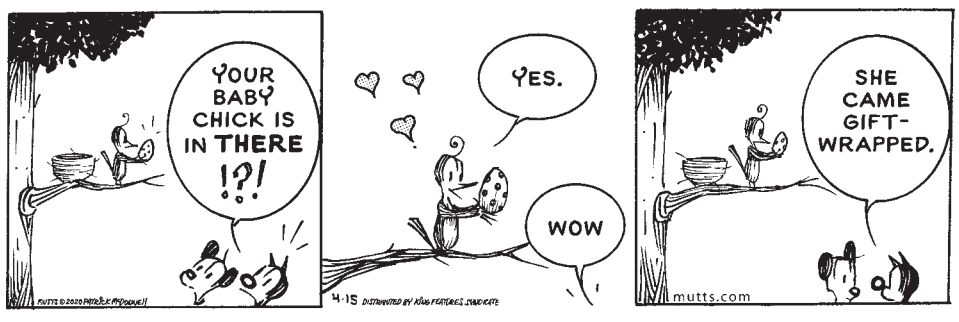
MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

I MISS THE OFFICE TOO, TED. AND I JUST STARTED MY JOB...
KEEFE
I KNOW I'M STILL DOING IT REMOTELY. BUT IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO BUILD UP A SMALL BUSINESS RIGHT NOW. AND IF I HAVE IT BAD, JUST IMAGINE JACKIE WITH HER STORE.
4-15
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MEANWHILE, AT JACKIE'S HOUSE...
IS ANY OF THIS STORE INVENTORY YOU BROUGHT HOME LIKE THAT EVIL DOLL YOU SOLD SALLY?
OKAY, FIRST, I DIDN'T KNOWINGLY SELL EVIL. AND SECOND, HOPEFULLY I CAN SELL THIS STUFF ONLINE BEFORE IT TURNS ON US.

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@TonyWittkowski

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@HPANewman

Louise Wrege
@HPWrege

Jane Ammeson
@HPAmmeson

John Matuszak
@HPMatuszak

Julie Swidwa
@HPSwidwa

Ben Sanders
@HPBenSanders

Maxwell Harden
@HPMaxwellHarden

Ben Spencer
@HPBenSpencer

PRIME TIME TV

WEDNESDAY EVENING APR. 15

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs (N)	Schooled (N)	Housewife	Single Parents	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N) CC	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	Survivor "The Full Circle" (N) CC		:01 SEAL Team "Edge of Nowhere"		S.W.A.T. "Vice" (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Chicago Med "A Needle in the Heart"		Chicago Fire "51's Original Bell" (N)		Chicago P.D. Atwater goes under cover. (N)	
FOX 17 222 28 32	Modern Family	The Masked Singer Viewer sing-along.		:01 LEGO Masters "Finals"		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Outdoor Elements	Nature Naledi the baby elephant.		Blood Sugar Rising The history and science of diabetes. (N) CC			
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Riverdale (N) CC		Nancy Drew (N) CC		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud (N)	Chicago P.D. "Sanctuary" CC (DVS)		Dateline A celebration ends in murder.		Dateline "The Sting" CC	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Riverdale (N) CC		Nancy Drew (N) CC		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland CC (DVS)		Highway to Heaven CC		The List (N) CC	Celebrity Page (N)
WGN 9	News	black-ish CC	black-ish CC	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 Ghost Hunters	Ghost Hunters "Terror Town Part 2"		Ghost Hunters "Proof of Afterlife"		Celebrity Ghost Stories (N) CC	
AMC	5:30 Top Gun	Major League ('89) Tom Berenger. A ragtag team tries to turn its poor performance around. CC					Karate Kid II
Animal	Lone Star	Lone Star Law: Uncuffed (N)				Lone Star Law	
BET	When the Bough Breaks			Tyler Perry's Sistas		Twenties	Boom
Big Ten	Journey	Big Ten Elite CC		Ohio State		Journey	Football
Bravo	Housewives	Real Housewives/ Beverly		Summer House "A Birthday to Die For"		Real Housewives/ Beverly	
Cartoon	Gumball	Home	Burgers	Burgers	Rick	American	American
Cinemax	Rescue Dawn	Enemy of the State ('98, Suspense) Will Smith, Gene Hackman. CC				:15 Mr. Brooks ('07) CC	
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	CNBC	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Jay Leno's Garage	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Yankers	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	South Pk	Yankers
Discovery	Expedition Un.	Expedition Unknown: Uncovered Josh's quest takes him to Mount Everest. (N)				Legends of the Wild (N) CC	
Disney	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven	Just Roll	Gabby	Coop
DIY	Bargain	Holmes Makes		Holmes Makes		Holmes Makes	
E!	Botched	Botched CC		Botched CC		Botched CC	
ESPN	:00 2009 NBA Finals From June 14, 2009.				2010 NBA Finals		
ESPN2	ESPN Original Docu	Rookie	Rookie	UFC	UFC Unleashed (N)		
ESPNC	6:30 College Football From Dec. 21, 2013.				College Football		
Food	Grocery	Guy's Games		Guy's Games		Guy's Games	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Bask	Detroit Pistons Classics Game 3. (N)				World Poker	
Freefrm	6:30 National Treasure: Book of Secrets ('07) CC			Motherland: Fort Salem (N) CC		Motherland: Fort Salem CC	
FX	Deadpool ('16) Ryan Reynolds. Deadpool hunts down the man who nearly destroyed his life. CC					What We Do in the Shadows CC	
Golf	Coll. Golf			GOLF Films CC		GOLF Films CC	
Hallmark	Moonlight Vt.	Fashionably Yours ('20) Kendrick Sampson, Kat Graham. CC				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HBO	Plot-America	Bridesmaids ('11, Comedy) Kristen Wiig, Maya Rudolph. CC				:05 Insecure	:40 Westworld
History	Forged	Forged in Fire		Forged in Fire (N)		Eating	Eating
HGTV	Property	Property Brothers		Property Brothers		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	My 600-	My 600-Lb. Life "Leneatha's Story" (N)				Dr. Pimple Popper	
Lifetime	Married-Sight	Married at First Sight ((F)) The eight-week experiment ends. (N) CC				:03 Bride & Prejudice: Forbidden Love	
MSNBC	Decision	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Ridic.	The Challenge (N) CC			Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Sports	Chicago Bulls Classic					Bulls
NFL	NFL Total	A Football Life		A Football Life		A Football Life	
Nick	Sponge.	Danger	Sponge.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Border.	Borderforce USA		Borderforce USA		:03 Borderforce USA	
Oxygen	:00 Method of a Serial Killer The FBI uncovers a serial killer.			License to Kill "International Serial Killer"		Snapped Prolific American serial killer.	
Parmt	:00 Tommy Boy ('95) CC				Tommy Boy ('95)		
Showtime	6:00 Superbad	Indecent Proposal ('93, Drama) Robert Redford, Demi Moore. CC				Wild Things ('98) CC	
Starz	6:16 Once Upon a Time... In Hollywood ('19) CC			Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance ('11) Nicolas Cage.			Escape Room
STZENC	6:56 Sicario: Day of the Soldado ('18) CC			In the Line of Fire ('93) Clint Eastwood, John Malkovich. CC			
SyFy	6:00 Mad Max: Fury Road		The Fast and the Furious ('01, Action) Vin Diesel, Paul Walker. CC (DVS)				Lake Placid
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Full Frontal
TCM	6:00 Top Hat	Dark Victory ('39) Bette Davis. A dying heiress embarks on a social whirl.				No Way Out ('50, Drama) CC	
TMC	I Feel Pretty	Second Act ('18) Jennifer Lopez, Leah Remini. CC			:45 Tyler Perry's the Family That Preys ('08) CC		
TNT	Longest	All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (N) CC				Justice League	
Travel	Helltown	Ghost Adventures The Conjuring house.				True Terror	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men
USA	:00 NCIS	WWE NXT (N) (L) CC				Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
VH1	Black Ink	Black Ink Crew (N)		Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out	Wild/Out
WGN-A	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With	Married ... With

Study links gut microbiome with pulmonary arterial hypertension

DEAR DOCTOR: It seems like gut microbes are part of every kind of health issue now. I just read that having the wrong bacteria causes pulmonary hypertension, which is something our dad had before he died. Is that really true? How can it be fixed?

DEAR READER: We're right there with you in being amazed by the breadth and depth of the role of the gut microbiome in health and well-being. The emerging research these days is fascinating, and it continues to shape and expand our understanding of how the body functions. In your question, you're referring to the results of research published last February in the American Heart Association's journal Hypertension. According to the study, researchers found that a specific assortment of gut bacteria may not only contribute to a certain type of pulmonary hypertension, but also may be useful in predicting its onset.

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

Let's start by talking about the condition itself. When someone has pulmonary hypertension, it means that something has caused high blood pressure in the arteries of their lungs. This is in contrast to general hypertension, which is high blood pressure in the arteries throughout the body. The study that you're asking about focuses on a specific subset of the disease, known as pulmonary arterial hypertension, or PAH. That's when progressive scarring damages the walls of the small arteries within the lungs, which makes them stiff and narrow and slows down blood flow. As blood pressure rises, the right side of the heart has to work harder. Over time, this extra workload taxes the heart and causes it to become enlarged and weakened, which leads to a new set of problems.

Symptoms of PAH include fatigue, shortness of breath, heart arrhythmias, and swelling in the feet, legs, abdomen and neck. Although the condition can arise on its own, it has been associated with congenital heart disease, COPD, chronic liver disease and drug use.

PAH is a serious and progressive disease, and there is no known cure at this time. Because the symptoms are common to many conditions, it can be hard to diagnose in its earliest stages. When PAH is suspected, diagnosis begins with blood tests, chest X-rays, scans of the heart and lungs, and endurance tests. The condition is confirmed with a procedure known as right heart catheterization, which allows a direct measurement of blood pressure within the main pulmonary arteries. Treatment focuses on managing symptoms with blood thinners, diuretics and supplemental oxygen.

The new PAH findings hint at a radical new approach to the disease. In the study, researchers analyzed stool samples from 18 PAH patients and 12 people with no history of cardiopulmonary disease. They were surprised to find the PAH patients' microbiomes harbored a specific collection of bacteria that were absent in the stool of the healthy test subjects. According to the study results, the presence of those specific bacteria predicted a diagnosis of PAH with 83 percent accuracy. It's a small study, and many questions remain. But if the results are corroborated in future research, this new direction holds promise for new avenues in PAH diagnosis and therapy.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Meeting the new woman in Dad's life

DEAR CAROLYN: I'm in my late 20s and my parents are going through a nasty, drawn-out divorce.

A new couple moved in next door to them and my dad and the wife fell for each other. Each of them left their spouses, my dad after years of unhappiness with my mom.

Carolyn Hax

It has been a roller-coaster ride for me. Starting with anger at my father, sympathy for my mother, unhealthy boundary crossing by my mother talking badly about my dad to me, and of course my disdain for the new woman.

After a lot of reflection, I have set boundaries with my mother, been in much more frequent contact with my dad, and have realized what a beautiful childhood I had and how wonderful both of my parents have always been to me. This divorce has everything to do with their relationship and nothing to do with me.

I got to know the new woman in my dad's life before all this happened and I really enjoyed her company! She loves her dogs (like me!) and was so well spoken and educated. We kept in touch and would send each other funny pictures of our dogs, and she helped me with my job search.

Since finding out about their relationship, I haven't spoken to her.

I hear she is "terrified" of me now. I would never want anyone to feel that way about me! I am thinking of sending her a text, possibly inviting my dad to visit us and bring her with him. But I am worried it will be awkward and change our close father/daughter dynamic.

I don't really know how to navigate this new relationship. Any tips? Fiance thinks I am overthinking it; his parents have been divorced since he was 3. – Overthinking?

OVERTHINKING?: I agree with your fiance, but I'd like to call it something else: under-trusting.

You've given this a lot of thought, and the situation called for every bit of it. It is wrenching to have two people you love pitted against each other.

Not only did you summon the strength not to get caught in the middle, but you also found the wisdom to see the larger context and shared humanity of all the people involved, and to resist the easy, and temptingly divisive, labels. You embraced complexity when you knew it could come at a cost.

So now it's time to trust your work. You want to start the process, yes, of inviting the neighbor/friend back into your life, now as the "new woman"? Then trust that it's the right impulse at the right time for you.

It will be awkward, you're right. New things typically are, and messy new things are almost guaranteed to be. Again, trust yourself to manage that, and to get past it.

It will change the balance of your recent detente with your dad. Trust yourself to find a way to rebalance it.

It will upset your mother. So trust your judgment and hold your ground, even as you remain sympathetic to her hard, utterly valid feelings.

Most important, when things go wrong, or disappoint you, or stir up new stuff you didn't expect: Trust yourself to find your way through it. The "tip" that always applies.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

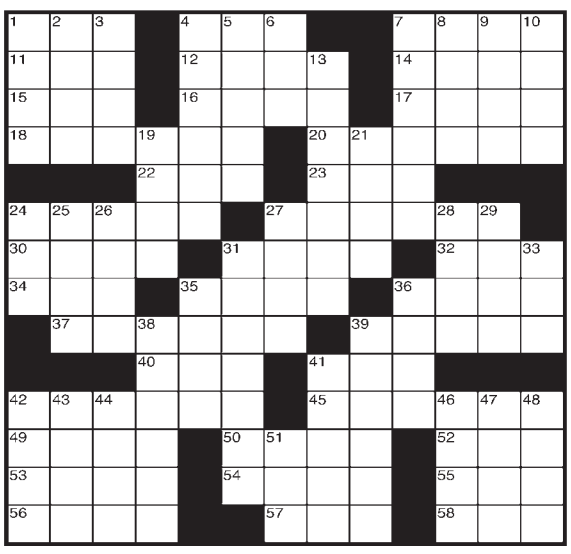
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Four-footed pal
4 Flow back
7 Barnyard fowl
11 Summer cooler
12 Hula dance fete
14 Fencer's blade
15 Mont. neighbor
16 OPEC member
17 First orchard?
18 Words for songs
20 Not quite
22 Strike
23 Tiny
24 Monks' superior
27 Barbarian
30 Sharp bark
31 Fourth planet
32 Broken-down horse
34 Paris thirst-quencher
35 Journalist Brit —
36 Put on
37 Leave hastily
39 Commonplace
40 Center
41 Glove leather
42 "1984" author
45 Flagged down
49 Club fees
50 Paleozoic and Mesozoic
52 Poem by Keats
53 Part of MIT
54 Durham university
55 Cone-bearer
56 Earns as profit
57 Offer
58 First-down yardage

DOWN
1 Garbage container
2 Swirling water
3 Shred
4 Draw out
5 Exploded
6 Sheep call
7 Considered
8 Victorian coiffure
9 So-so grades
10 Lois Lane's co-worker
13 In the dark
19 Flapjack chain
21 Telescope part
24 Tar's reply
25 Tiny sphere
26 Downcast
27 Siren
28 By and by
29 Pasternak heroine
31 Muttered
33 Mousse alternative
35 Pull along
36 Dry riverbed
38 Treasure holders
39 Prejudiced
41 Army wear
42 Valhalla honcho
43 Viking letter
44 It once was wild
46 Garret
47 Falco or McClurg
48 "Big Little Lies" Emmy winner
51 Abrade

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	P	A	R		A	V	E	C		A	T	E
C	O	M	E		M	A	T	E		L	A	D
A	L	E	C		P	L	A	N	T	A	I	N
M	O	N	O	C	L	E		T	E	S	L	A
			I	L	E		S	E	E			
J	E	L	L	O		K	E	R	M	I	T	
A	S	U		Y	O	U	R		S	L	A	B
I	S	I	S		A	R	F	S		K	O	I
	E	S	C	O	R	T		L	A	S	S	O
			I	F	S		N	I	X			
S	K	I	F	F		L	I	M	I	T	E	D
H	Y	G	I	E	N	I	C		O	R	L	Y
O	R	O		R	U	S	E		M	A	L	E
E	A	R		S	T	A	R		S	P	E	D



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JUMBLE

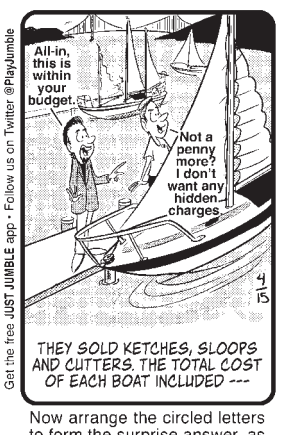
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EELIX

SEYMS

RATEYB

ECCLKA


All-in, this is within your budget.
Not a penny more? I don't want any hidden charges.
THEY SOLD KETCHES, SLOOPS AND CUTTERS. THE TOTAL COST OF EACH BOAT INCLUDED ---
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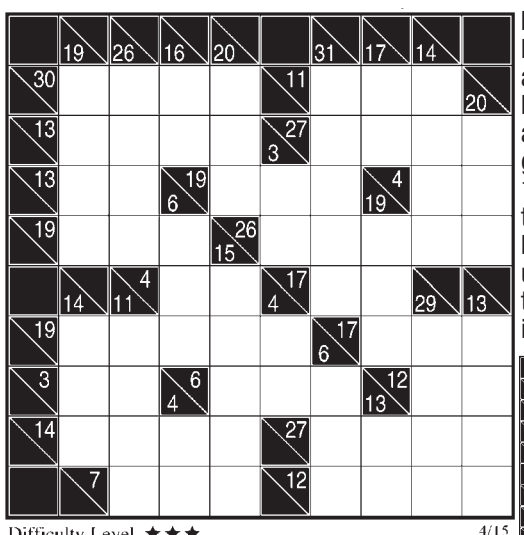
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

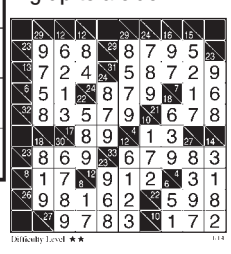
Yesterday's Jumbles: HIPPO BLISS PEANUT GLOOMY
Answer: The seabird's new business near the Golden Gate Bridge was a — "BAY-GULL" SHOP

KAKURO



How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/15



BRIDGE

Fred Allen, who was a comedian, cracked, "An income tax form is like a laundry list – either way, you lose your shirt."

That is appropriate on the day most Americans usually file their income tax returns.

Today's deal is taxing. How should South play in three no-trump after West leads the heart four?

The bidding was taxing also. South started with a negative double, showing exactly four spades. Now North, with no good rebid, sensibly chose one spade with only three in preference to one no-trump without a heart stopper, or two diamonds without six. South then offered his partner a choice of games, knowing that North would correct to four spades with four-card support.

South started with six top tricks: two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. The first declarer, thinking his best chance was to take three spade tricks, led a spade to the king. However, East took that and cleared the hearts. South could no longer find a ninth trick.

The second South played three rounds of diamonds. East established his hearts, got in with the spade ace and cashed the hearts.

The successful declarer spotted an avoidance play. Confident that East had the spade ace from the bidding, South played a diamond to the ace and continued with a low spade. What could East do? If he had taken the trick, declarer would have had three spades, two hearts, two diamonds and two clubs. But when East played his spade 10, South won with his queen and played two more rounds of diamonds. He claimed one spade, two hearts, four diamonds and two clubs.

North 04-15-20
♠ K 7 4
♥ 8 3 2
♦ A 8 6 5 2
♣ A K

West
♠ 9 8 6 3
♥ 9 6 4
♦ J 9
♣ J 10 7 2

East
♠ A 10
♥ Q J 10 7 5
♦ Q 10 3
♣ Q 8 4

South
♠ Q J 5 2
♥ A K
♦ K 7 4
♣ 9 6 5 3

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Neither

South	West	North	East
		1♦	1♥
Dbl.	Pass	1♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 4

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

4		7	8	6	9	3	5	
		5		4			9	
	6	9	7	2		4		
7		4						
	3			7			2	
						1		4
		3		5	6	9	1	
	4			3		5		
	9	6	1	8	7	2		3

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

8	4	7	3	1	5	2	9	6
2	9	6	8	7	4	3	1	5
1	5	3	9	2	6	8	4	7
6	2	4	7	5	9	1	3	8
7	1	5	4	3	8	9	6	2
9	3	8	1	6	2	7	5	4
3	7	2	5	4	1	6	8	9
4	6	9	2	8	3	5	7	1
5	8	1	6	9	7	4	2	3

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KATIE KRAWCZAK Design Editor

Support what you value

At the end of 2020, when all the linguistic organizations reveal their "word of the year," there will be some obvious choices: *pandemic, coronavirus* and *quarantine*.

But my choice: *essential*.

For the past month or so, we've been told when doing a task that might increase our risk of exposure to the virus, we should ask ourselves if it is essential. In many cases, our government has told us what is or isn't essential and ordered us to avoid the non-essentials.

Dave Brown

Even more startling, the government has told us if our jobs are considered essential. I understand the need for the distinction to be able to enforce a stay-at-home order. But imagine being someone who has lost income and faces economic anxiety, and on top of that is told by elected leaders that their life's work is not essential.

Many of the people reading this don't have to imagine it – they're experiencing it.

I'm lucky. The news media's role in keeping the public informed is considered essential by the government, so I get to keep working.

The truth is, we all have different definitions of essential, and that's why there is so much frustration over inconsistencies in emergency orders. Stores aren't supposed to sell paint or furniture, but they have the state's blessing to continue to sell state lottery tickets.

And what may not be essential for a few days, or a few weeks, may certainly be essential over a longer period of time. Lawns may not need landscaping for now, but imagine driving through neighborhoods a month from now if people unable to mow their own lawns can't legally hire someone to do it.

There are many things each of us personally thinks is essential, even if the government doesn't. Yeah, maybe legally or even truthfully they are not essential to sustain life, but they are essential to our quality of life.

We can all go a few weeks without a trip to a barber or hair salon (politicians appearing on TV exempted, of course), but after a couple months many will start getting very uncomfortable with their appearance. (Prediction: Hats will come into fashion since they do a great job hiding the roots.)

We can delay purchases of new cars and new houses for a while – until our cars break down beyond repair, or a new job or significant life event requires a move. Suddenly "non-essential" Realtors and car dealers seem quite essential.

This may have been a trite expression to most of us a couple months ago: *You don't realize how much you value something until it is taken away*.

It isn't trite anymore. Most of us are introspective enough to have realized in the past month that some things we considered essential really aren't. But we've also realized how much we've taken for granted. The things that are essential to us, personally, now have more value, and we'll appreciate them all the more when they come back.

But some things may not come back. Many local businesses are in a precarious position right now. Their loss of income is threatening their survival. It's very possible when this economic shutdown ends that many local businesses will not reopen. At least for a while, there likely will be fewer restaurants or coffee shops in our community. Stores you may have visited infrequently will seem more important when they're closed and you know they would have had that certain something you're looking for.

If it's true that this pandemic has taught us to better value the things that have been taken away, perhaps it will prompt us to better support them when they return.

I get the convenience and (sometimes) savings of shopping online. But maybe in the future we can all pause before placing that order on Amazon and ask if we can help keep a local business open by purchasing the item in town. Businesses can't survive without customers, and local communities can't thrive without businesses.

And, I firmly believe, local communities can't thrive without a strong local media presence to keep the communities informed.

It's no secret that the newspaper industry even before this pandemic has been hurting as the internet has changed people's reading habits and other sources of information have mushroomed. So this economic shutdown that has hurt so many businesses has been a big blow to newspapers. After all, the local businesses whose advertising supports newspapers don't have much incentive to advertise when they're not open.

Much of that advertising will return when the economy reopens, and many newspapers will continue to serve their communities, though with smaller staffs and less reporting. Some papers, I fear, won't survive. And those that shut down will leave their communities with a great loss. The members of those communities will realize – too late – how much they valued their best source of local information after it's taken away.

The HP serves an indispensable role in Southwest Michigan. We don't do everything right, and you may have reasons to be mad at us from time to time. But our journalists are dedicated to providing you with valuable, accurate information that you won't get anywhere else.

If you want to make sure we're here in the future, I ask you to help support us, if you're not already a subscriber. A print subscription, which includes access to our online content, or a less expensive online-only subscription will give you regular access to important news about Southwest Michigan.

I hope that is something you will value as essential *before* it is taken away.

Dave Brown is the managing editor of The Herald-Palladium.

Don't let social-distancing be the new normal

I was in high school back in 2001, when we witnessed the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It was a frightening time, not only because so many people lost their lives on that day, but also because it created fear and uncertainty for those who were left behind.

Would there be more terrorist attacks? What would the United States do in response? Would our way of life ever be the same again?

Brian Johnston
Opinion Maker

A lot of us were asking these questions in the hours and days afterward. Yet, it was also a time in which Americans all came together, to support one another as we all tried to navigate our way through unprecedented times. Patriotism and support for one another were stronger than I ever remember it being in my entire life.

Eventually, things went somewhat back to normal. Though some aspects of our lives have forever changed as a result of 9/11, here after nearly two decades we've reached the point where it no longer consumes our everyday thoughts. We came out of that situation stronger and more resilient.

I've thought a lot about those days recently as we struggle to get through this current situation, the COVID-19 outbreak.

This is a much different situation in many ways, yet it some ways it is similar. People are coming together to support each other – not literally, because of social distancing rules – and despite the unfortunate death and sickness that surround us, we are still seeing the best in many people. A difficult situation can cause that to happen. And the biggest similarity is that it has changed our everyday lives.

I've heard a lot of people say that we've "reached a new normal." Kids can't go to school. People either have to work from home or can't work at all. While people can connect electronically, we can't gather in person. While experts have considered these to be necessary steps to help save lives, I certainly hope that this is not the "new normal."

This situation has gone on longer than many people first thought, yet eventually it will come to an end. Kids will go back to school. Adults will go back to work. We'll be able to gather in person again. Someday, we'll get back into a normal routine. But will things ever be the same again? Has this outbreak permanently changed our lives?

For one thing, after this outbreak is over – and hopefully that is sooner rather than later – how many people will feel comfortable going back out in public again, or how long will it take for people to do so? From a scientific standpoint, people might be fearful of being in public for a long time, out of fear of either catching this virus or seeing the outbreak of another terrible disease.

But besides that, I wonder whether how we view other people in our society will change. Right now, we are taking almost every measure possible in order to avoid making contact with each other. When I go for walks around my neighborhood, I am making sure that I stay at least six feet away from everyone I pass. My TV is full of advertisements from restaurants making it known that they still offer "contactless" delivery.

Will we still try to avoid each other like this when the outbreak is over? Is this situation changing our attitudes about other people, where we now see them as threats? I certainly hope not.

Looking around at what's happening right now, if we do ever get back to normal, it's going to take a very long time. It's an unfortunate situation, and while there are many aspects of it that we can't control, what we can control is our response to it: not only how we combat the disease, but also how we respond to each other once we're able to return to normal life.

Don't let this situation change you as a person – unless it's for the better. When this is all over, continue to have regard for your fellow man. Don't see other people as a threat; rather, see meeting other people as an opportunity to be kind and helpful. It is only if we have the right attitude that we will come out of this situation stronger than ever before.

Brian Johnston lives in St. Joseph with his wife and two children. You can find him on Facebook at facebook.com/brianjohnstonwriter.

LETTERS

Help ensure equality for all Michigan citizens

Editor,

The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act 453 of 1976 of Michigan prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, public service and educational institutions because of religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status or marital status. As in other laws, there is a section with definitions of the wording used in the act.

In this law it is Section 103, and "sex" is not defined. With no definition, it "opens the door" to allow discrimination of LGBT citizens.

Fair and Equal Michigan launched a petition campaign to amend Section 103 of the E-L Civil Rights Act by adding the definition of "sex" to include gender, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Also, "religion" will be defined as including the religious belief of an individual.

Fair and Equal Michigan needs to collect 340,047 signatures by May 27, 2020. After they are validated, the Michigan Legislature will have 40 days to adopt the amendment or it will be submitted to the Michigan voters for approval at the Nov.3 election.

With the COVID-19 pandemic it has become almost impossible to gather signatures. Fair and Equal Michigan has introduced a new process for gathering signatures by mail.

If you are a registered Michigan voter, you can fill out a form at https://bit.ly/2U4EvS8 and receive a petition with instructions in the mail. You could simply sign it with other members of your household. As there is room for nine signatures, consider leaving the petition on your front porch or outside your apartment door and inviting neighbors to walk over and sign it using their own black or blue pen. Petitions cannot be duplicated, but you can always request more. All signees must be registered voters in the same county. Before mailing it back, sign your name as circulator on the bottom of the petition.

Fair and Equal Michigan said it best, "This pandemic is a powerful reminder that we're all in this together, no matter what we look like, where we live, or who we love. Thanks for doing your part to stay safe and healthy while we continue our effort toward equality for all."

Julie Leavitt
South Haven

Leading causes of death in U.S.

Editor,

Given the increasing number of COVID-19 related deaths in the United States, it may help your readers to place the severity of the current pandemic in context in terms of the total number of deaths (and deaths attributed to specific causes) experienced each year in the United States. The following data for 2017, from the CDC, can help us grab hold of the picture as a whole:

Total number of deaths (all causes) in the U.S. for 2017: 2,813,503.

Deaths due to specific leading causes: heart disease – 647,457; cancer – 599,108; unintentional injuries – 169,936; chronic lower respiratory disease – 160,201; stroke and cerebrovascular diseases – 146,383; Alzheimer's disease – 121,404; diabetes – 83,564; influenza and pneumonia – 55,672; kidney disease – 50,633; suicide – 47,173; for a subtotal of 2,081,531.

All other causes of death total 731,972; for a grand total (for all causes) for 2017 of 2,813,503.

I hope these data are useful and illuminating.

Michael Hill, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Jane Addams Research Center
St. Joseph

Trump failed in coronavirus leadership

Editor,

Donald Trump has greatly endangered our nation by failing to take decisive early action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infections in the U.S. As a result, this disease has become a raging epidemic in our country.

Trump is now attempting to distract attention away from his lack of leadership by blaming others and by lying about what he did and didn't do.

A recent target has been the World Health Organization (WHO), which Trump has blamed for "downplaying" the novel coronavirus threat. The truth is that on Jan. 30 the WHO declared the virus a "public health emergency of international concern" and urged all countries to take coordinated action to prevent the spread of this "extraordinary" threat.

In response to the WHO declaration the United States, along with many other countries, partially restricted travel from China. Trump's claim that he "closed up" all travel between the U.S. and China is a lie. The truth is that United States citizens and permanent residents and their families were allowed to travel to our country from China and that trade with China continued as before.

Trump also repeatedly has said that his decision to limit travel from China was a "bold" move made "against the advice of almost everybody." That is not true. At the time the travel restrictions were announced, Alex Azar, the head of the Health and Human Services Department (HHS), stated that the decision stemmed from "the uniform recommendations of the career public officials here at HHS."

Another false claim is that Joe Biden opposed travel restrictions on China and criticized that action as "xenophobic" and "racist." The truth is that Biden supported travel restrictions on China, but criticized Trump's general lack of honesty and his long record of xenophobia and racism.

Trump repeatedly minimized the threat from the coronavirus outbreak and failed to take decisive actions to combat that threat. He has refused to take responsibility for his lack of leadership, instead choosing to blame others for his failures and lie about his inaction.

Donald Trump's lies cannot cover up the repeated evidence of his dangerous incompetence and dishonesty.

Donald Holmes
Buchanan

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

Email: letters@TheHP.com

Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

All letters should include a daytime telephone number and street address for verification. Letters must be 500 words or fewer. The Herald-Palladium reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, grammar, inappropriate content and libel. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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Coloma schools extend strategic plan by a year

District eyes possible alternate graduation dates

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

COLOMA — It's going to take a little bit longer for Coloma Community Schools to complete its current five-year strategic plan.

The Coloma school board approved a one-year extension on the plan during a virtual meeting Monday night.

Superintendent Dave Ehlers said the extension is needed because about a year of the plan was lost in the transition to him as superintendent in 2018, and with the coronavirus pandemic closing schools this spring.

"All the goals are still relevant," he said. "It makes sense to look to next year to hire a facilitator, create a new plan, and have it ready to start in July 2022."

The plan, which went into effect in 2016, was set to expire in 2021. It can be read at www.ccs.coloma.org.

In other school closure business, Ehlers reported that the district is scheduling days for teachers to come in to get supplies to teach students remotely for the rest of the school year.

He said with people entering the school buildings, deep cleaning and sanitizing will take place until they know they're safe from the coronavirus.

The school board granted Ehlers emergency powers Monday night so he can take action more quickly during the coronavirus school closure.

He said switching the district's curriculum to online would normally be an action taken by the school board, but he had to make those decisions rather quickly last week before the school board could meet.

Ehlers said he's been working with district staff on an alternative graduation date for seniors.

Nothing is final yet, but the district is currently looking at June 12, 13 or 14, if it can't be conducted on the originally scheduled date of May 29. But he said, there's a small window in which they could hold it because of some construction work set to beginning mid-June on the west parking lot at the middle/high school complex.

Ehlers said a decision would be made at the end of the stay-at-home order and communicated with parents.

Also set to start mid-June is summer migrant school.

Ehlers said the district is assuming it will still take place because it falls outside of the executive order that shut schools for the rest of the school year. It is tentatively scheduled for June 18 to July 31.

The school board also approved a new three-year contract with Edlio, a school website design company, to renew and redesign the district's website. The cost is $5,400 a year, an about $1,200 more than the previous contract.

Ehlers said the increase in cost is so the company can provide more technical support and training of district staff.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

Virtual learning gets a boost in Benton Harbor

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Virtual learning is getting a boost now that Benton Harbor school board trustees approved buying 935 Dell Chromebooks and 30 charging stations.

The $238,375 cost will come out of federal Title IV funds, Superintendent Andrae Townsel told trustees during their Tuesday meeting. He said purchasing the laptops will help put the district on a more equal footing with surrounding school districts when it comes to distance learning, especially with school buildings being closed the rest of the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

He said Title IV funds are for enrichment.

Trustees also agreed to hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. April 21 to consider the academic and financial operating plan approved Monday by the Benton Harbor Area Schools Community Engagement Advisory Committee.

Taylor said trustees gave the advisory committee a list of questions and they expect to receive the answers today.

"By then, the superintendent would have looked over the CEAC advisory recommendations and also make his recommendations," he said.

Taylor said the plan can be approved by May so it can be implemented in the fall.

He said the board may want to make some changes before approving the plan, such as increasing the number of schools to be used to teach the students in. The plan calls for only using two to three buildings.

Trustee Denise Whatley-Seats, a member of the advisory committee, said the number of buildings to be used in the plan is only a recommendation and the school board trustees have final say.

The report includes a list of the school district's 21 properties, which includes the former Chemical Bank building on Riverview Drive and 136 acres of farmland on Napier Avenue and Blue Creek Road in Benton Township.

Taylor said the trustees should submit their vision for the district to Townsel, who is expected to make a recommendation next week.

Meetings are being held on Google Meet due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's orders to stay home. Information on how to join meetings can be found on the district's website at www.BHAS.org.

Townsel also said that even though the rest of the school year is canceled, he hasn't canceled prom or graduation ceremonies, yet. He said none of the surrounding districts have canceled those events. He said he's working with parents to come up with a way to celebrate those events virtually if they can't be done in person because of the pandemic.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

OBITUARIES

Gordon L. 'Lee' Mikesell

May 2, 1938 – April 12, 2020

Gordon L. "Lee" Mikesell, 81, of Stevensville lost his battle to Parkinson's on Sunday, April 12, 2020.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Napier Parkview Baptist Church. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Lee was born on May 2, 1938, in Cincinnati, to Gordon W. and Lutie (Drake) Mikesell. He graduated in 1957 from Ypsilanti High School and continued his education at Cleary Business College, where he earned an associate's degree in business. In 1960, Lee proudly enlisted in the United States Army until he was honorably discharged in 1962. On Sept. 12, 1998, Lee married Lorraine Holub, in St. Joseph.

For many years, Lee worked in the Human Resources Department at Ypsilanti Hospital, and was later relocated to Mercy Memorial and then to Lakeland Hospital as a tumor registrar, where he retired after nearly 30 years. Lee had a strong faith for His Lord and was a proud member of Napier Parkview Baptist Church. He would participate in their Bible study program and went on numerous missionary trips with the church to various countries, including Russia, Venezuela and Ukraine. Lee had a passion for helping people whenever possible. He volunteered his time for the St. Joseph Township Fire Department and at Lakeland Hospital. In his spare time, Lee would enjoy riding his motorcycle, bird-watching, hand-carving beautiful wooden canes and making his wife, Lorraine, happy by going square dancing with her (although, she would argue that he enjoyed going on his own terms). Lee loved his family so much, and spending time with his grandchildren gave him the most joy. He was a wonderful, generous man who will be missed dearly by all who knew him.

Lee is survived by his wife, Lorraine, of Stevensville; sons, Brian (Carrie) Mikesell of Stevensville and Thomas (Mellisa) Mikesell; stepchildren, Shawn (Heidi) Dela-Foret of St. Joseph and Nicole (Josh) Rick of Baroda; grandchildren, Riley, Elliott, Sophie, Asher and Sage; and siblings, Virginia Slocum and Ron (Dottie) Mikesell.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon W. and Lutie; and son, Peter Mikesell.

Vicky J. Clayton

April 9, 1959 – April 12, 2020

Vicky J. Clayton, 61, of Berrien Center died Sunday, April 12, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph.

Private graveside services will be held, with a public memorial service at a later date. Online memories and messages may be left for the family at www.bowermanfuneral.com. Donations in Vicky's name may be made to the National Kidney Foundation.

Vicky was born April 9, 1959, in Midland, Mich., the youngest of nine children of Robert and Aletha (Carrigan) Card. She earned a bachelor's degree from Andrews University, and she married Mark Clayton on March 9, 1986, in Eau Claire. She dedicated her life to raising their son and caring for her family. Vicky enjoyed gardening, the beach and family vacations. She was an excellent seamstress, loved fancy hats and she was an avid reader. Vicky was a fan of the Detroit Tigers and the House of David Echo Third Generation baseball team.

She is survived by her husband, Mark; son, Matthew (Heather); siblings: Ilene Meehan, James (Diane) Card, Galen (Mary) Card, Larry Card, Cheryl (James) Symonds and Kathy Card; and 18 nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents; a brother-in-law, Timothy Meehan; and brothers, Richard (and his wife, Sharon) Card and Dennis Card.

Anna Mary Warwick

June 21, 1925 – April 12, 2020

Anna Mary Warwick, 94, of Bridgman passed away Sunday, April 12, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville.

Anna was born June 21, 1925, the daughter of the late Joseph and Sophie Pivar. On July 7, 1947, she married Edward Warwick, and he preceded her in death on July 11, 2002.

Survivors include her sons, Edward Warwick Jr., and Richard (Maria Carrig) Warwick; and a host of wonderful friends.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pike Funeral and Cremation Services, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman.

Death notices

Bessie Bennett, 83, of Benton Harbor died April 1, 2020, at home. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Ray C. DeSenzio, 94, of St. Joseph died April 13, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Laurie Ann Dietz, 61, of Stevensville died April 11, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Danny Dotson, 67, of Benton Harbor died April 6, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Corey Duckett, 45, formerly of Benton Harbor died April 1, 2020, in Grand Rapids, Mich. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Dewayne Evans, 40, of Benton Harbor died March 30, 2020, at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo, Mich. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Gerald W. Grier, 87, of St. Joseph died April 13, 2020, at home. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

James House, 40, formerly of Benton Harbor died March 31, 2020, in Detroit. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Emmett Jones Jr., 57, of Benton Harbor died April 8, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Hollie J. Milius, 41, of Stevensville died April 13, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Demetrius Morgan, 48, of Niles died April 2, 2020, in Niles. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Phyllis Leatrice (Harper) Philyaw, 88, of Watervliet died April 13, 2020, at home. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Virginia Pullen, 90, of Benton Harbor died April 3, 2020, at home. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Essie Ray Tate, 92, of Benton Harbor died April 7, 2020. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Anna Mary Warwick, 94, of Bridgman died April 12, 2020, at Hanson Hospice Center, Stevensville. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Leonard Whittaker, 78, of Niles died April 14, 2020, at Center for Hospice Care, South Bend, Ind. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Johnny Williams, 73, of Benton Harbor died April 4, 2020, at Pine Ridge, Stevensville. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Essie Mae Ray Tate

April 27, 1927 – April 7, 2020

Essie Ray Tate, 92, transitioned to her heavenly home on April 7, 2020.

She was born April 27, 1927, in Sweet Home, Ark., to James and Jesse Nattee. She married her first love, Amos Ray, and moved to Chicago in the mid-1940s. Soon after, they relocated to Benton Harbor. From this union, six children were born.

Essie worked for a short time at Mercy Hospital until she stayed home to take care of her growing family. She always made sure the family sat down for big Sunday dinners. She made quilts, canned fruit, crocheted when she wasn't working in her garden and planted flowers.

After Amos' passing, she married her second love, Homer Tate, on July 4, 1981. He was a kind and loving man who took on the responsibility of raising her large family. Essie accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age. She was a member of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church under the Rev. John L. Price and was baptized on July 31, 1992.

She is survived by her son, Michael Ray of Dallas; daughters, Dorothy (Lesley) Golliday and Tanga Ray of Benton Harbor and Lolita Ford of Jacksonville, Ark.; one sister, Emma Jean Hardy of Chicago; 20 grandchildren; 54 great-grandchildren; 34 great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her second love, Homer; sons, Troy Vee and Amos Jr.; brothers, Buford, Burnett, James, Earl, Leo and Timothy; and sisters, Juanita and Cleo.

Viewing will be from noon-1 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, with a graveside service at 1 p.m. at Crystal Springs Cemetery.

BH cemetery manager situation still unclear

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — Benton Harbor City Manager Ellis Mitchell told the city's cemetery board members Tuesday that he can't have anything to do with the cemetery board, due to a 1994 court ruling.

"There were some problems. I don't know exactly what they were but they led to a court order and the judge ruled that the cemetery board members could not be removed by the city," he said during the meeting, which was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cemetery board members have been asking for guidance from Mitchell for months after the former manager, Bert Edquist, announced that on March 15, he would no longer manage the city's two cemeteries – Crystal Springs and Morton Hill. Edquist gave the city the required 120-day notice last fall that he would no longer be managing the city's cemeteries, citing his desire to partially retire. He also owns North Shore Memory Gardens in Hagar Township, Mission Hills Memorial Chapel, Crematory and Gardens in Niles and North Shore Event Center in Benton Township.

Edquist said he's willing to continue burying people until a new manager is found, but he no longer wants the responsibility of choosing the burial site or of maintaining the grounds. He said that since March 15, he has performed 10 burials.

Board Chairperson Lisa Varrie said Edquist and the cemetery staff have been very kind to continue to take care of burials. She said she has been signing off on every burial so Edquist doesn't have liability if there is a problem.

However, Edquist said the city can't hire a lawn service to take care of the grounds until a manager is found due to the stay-home order from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, which lists landscapers as non-essential.

"The way I'm reading the order is that if you have your own employee, and they're part of the critical workers, and they're there to take care of burials, and then they do mowing, that's fine," he said. "But to hire somebody to come in and mow, ... they're not supposed to be doing that."

Edquist said that's going to create a problem.

"Come another two to three weeks of grass growth, it's going to be a w to get that place cleaned up by Memorial Day," he said.

Edquist took over managing the cemetery under a 20-year agreement negotiated in 2013 by then-Emergency Manager Tony Saunders II. Edquist agreed to buy the existing cemetery equipment for $100,000 and to pay a one-time $25,000 management fee. The agreement stipulated that Edquist was not responsible for any problems created before he took over.

But over the years, he said he's had to correct several problems that were created before he took over, such as bodies not being buried in the correct place.

Edquist previously said that the records at Crystal Springs when he took over were "very challenging," causing him to hire someone about a year ago just to go through the old records to try to figure out where everyone is buried.

Manager applicant

Cemetery board members also heard from Sean Fitzpatrick, who said he wants to take over managing the city's cemeteries. He said he's worked indirectly in the funeral industry for 15 years as an autopsy technician, and lives in Northwest Indiana, less than an hour away from Benton Harbor.

He said he submitted a business plan to Mitchell and has been to at least one city commission meeting. Mitchell said he was unable to give the business plan to cemetery board members due to the 1994 court ruling.

Fitzpatrick said he would take care of managing the cemetery. But because he doesn't have the equipment to perform the burials, he said Edquist would continue to do that until he gets the equipment. He said Edquist has been an invaluable mentor as he ventures into possibly managing the cemetery.

Cemetery board members decided not to make a decision on Fitzpatrick as the possible manager until after they've had time to look over his business plan. Some members also said they feel that the city should send out a request for proposal, in case other people would like to manager the cemetery.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

Green lawns will cost more in St. Joseph this summer. St. Joseph water customers with separate meters for sprinkler systems won't receive a summertime reduction on their sewage bills, city officials said. John Hodgson, administrative assistant for the city, estimates that at least 100 water customers in the city have separate meters for sprinkler systems. Such accounts are not billed for wastewater treatment, but starting this summer, the discount will not apply.

35 years ago – 1985

Three Oaks' only movie theater, located at 5 N. Elm St., was recently reopened after a 1-½-year-long shutdown. The theater, named The Oak Theater, is being managed by a Benton Harbor couple, Jon and Kimberley Burg, who are leasing the building from the Chicago owner. The Oak Theater is the site of the former Family Theater and Lee Theater, which first opened in 1911.

50 years ago – 1970

The Lake Michigan Journal, Lake Michigan College student newspaper, was awarded first prize as the best all-around newspaper published by a two-year college in Michigan at the annual convention of the Michigan Collegiate Press association. The award was announced at the convention last weekend on the Eastern Michigan University campus in Ypsilanti.

Editors-in-chief of the LMC newspaper were Stephen Czuhajewski, now a journalism major at Michigan State University, and David Mehren, a graduating journalism sophomore at LMC.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Wednesday, April 15, the 106th day of 2020. There are 260 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On April 15, 2013, two bombs made from pressure cookers exploded at the Boston Marathon finish line, killing two women and an 8-year-old boy and injuring more than 260. Suspected bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev died in a shootout with police; his brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

On this date:

In 1452, artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci was born in or near the Tuscan town of Vinci.

In 1850, the city of San Francisco was incorporated.

In 1865, President Abraham Lincoln died nine hours after being shot the night before by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater in Washington; Andrew Johnson became the nation's 17th president.

In 1912, the British luxury liner RMS Titanic foundered in the North Atlantic off Newfoundland more than 2 ½ hours after hitting an iceberg; 1,514 people died, while less than half as many survived.

In 1945, during World War II, British and Canadian troops liberated the Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died on April 12, was buried at the Roosevelt family home in Hyde Park, New York.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	Rain & Snow Possible	Partly Cloudy	Isolated Rain
39°	31°	42° / 35°	40° / 34°	49° / 39°	47° / 40°

Local Outlook

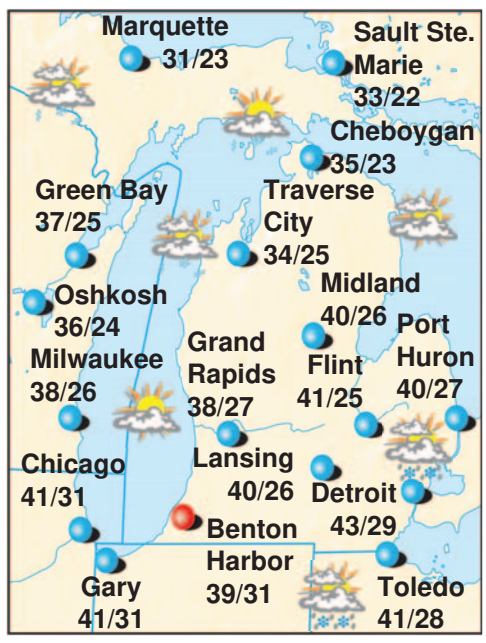
Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a slight chance of isolated snow, high temperature of 39°, humidity of 43%. West northwest wind 8 to 13 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 31°. West northwest wind 2 to 8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	7:04 a.m.
Sunset	8:27 p.m.
Moonrise	3:50 a.m.
Moonset	1:15 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
4/22	4/30	5/7	5/14

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	42°
Low	29°
Normal High	59°
Normal Low	38°
Record High	83° in 2003
Record Low	29° in 2008

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.50"
Normal for month	1.52"
Year to date	8.39"
Normal Year to date	7.17"

Air Quality

Yesterday	41
Main Offender	Ozone

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

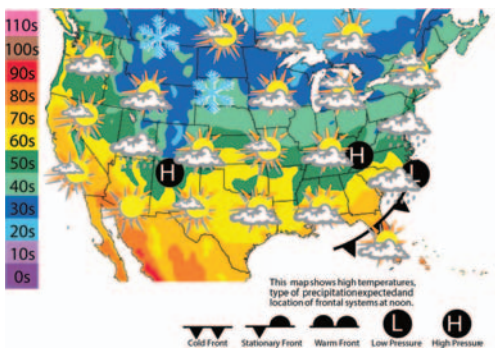
Weather Trivia

What do meteorologists consider to be a trace of precipitation?

Answer: A trace of precipitation is less than .01 inches.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for April 15, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, WNW wind 10 to 12 kt. A slight chance of snow showers. Waves around 2 ft. Water temperature 43 degrees. Tonight, Variable winds less than 5 kt. A slight chance of snow showers.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with widespread snow showers, highs in the 30s. West wind 6 to 14 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with isolated rain and snow, highs in the 30s. West southwest wind 6 to 16 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with scattered rain and snow, highs in the 30s and 40s. West northwest wind 8 to 13 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with highs in the 40s. West wind 4 to 10 mph.

FAITH

From page A1

stream them at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, and that has worked well," Hoskins said.

He said there was one weekend that there were a few glitches because Facebook was slow. But online services have compressed and reformated some things, and there has not been a problem since, he said.

"We've adapted the best we can. The hardest thing through this is not being able to have that face-to-face contact."

Kayte Hatch, administrative pastor at Summit, said it's impossible for the pastoral and church staff to personally call or text every church member every week.

"But we have great volunteers who have stepped up. Our volunteer Sunday School teachers are calling all their kids, and our front office staff is contacting seniors," she said.

Hatch said tithes and contributions have dropped off since people are not attending church in person, but, "We have people mailing in their checks and we have our online giving platform. We're being careful and watching our budgets. It's week by week and day by day right now."

Hoskins said the church is doing its best to stay connected with members through social media.

"During this time, especially, people have a need to trust in God, and we're trying to point people in that direction," he said.

Hatch adeed, "Our purpose doesn't change, leading people to follow Christ."

The Shore's Hester said he and his wife, Mary Hester, with help from church members, had been thoroughly cleaning the church and providing gloves and hand sanitizers until forced to discontinue in-person services.

Services are now being streamed on Facebook, YouTube and the church's website. Weekly Bible studies and Saturday men's group meetings also are being held online, through Zoom.

The church had recently started a cardio drumming program, and Hester said he is working on getting that online, so people can continue participating from home.

He's doing some individual, personal things as well.

"I'm trying to make encouraging videos, so people can see a live person. This morning I went out by the pier for a video. I'm putting a lot on Facebook and Twitter, and I'm trying to use some humor."

Hester said the Bible, in Proverbs 17:22, says, "A merry heart doeth good like medicine."

In a recent Facebook post, Hester noted some remarkable things some famous people had accomplished while self-isolating, and added that he himself, while at home, "Ate an entire bag of pork rinds."

"We still need to laugh and have a good time. God wants us to," he said.

Hester sees a silver lining.

"With the technology we're using, we've actually reached way more people than before. We're reaching thousands of people. People who haven't been going to church are coming to church online. I've gotten messages and calls from people, and it has pushed me to do even more outreach," he said.

Hester said that although tithes and offerings are obviously down, he has faith the church is not in financial jeopardy.

"We think we're good right now. We're a newer church and we have a partner church in Monroe," he said. "And people can still give through our website online. We realize that some people may currently have no resources."

But he does not want people to lose hope.

"I'm optimistic. There is hope. God has gotten our nation through tough times. God is in control, and there's hope in Him," Hester said.

The Rev. Paul Bradley, bishop for the Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo, sent a letter to parish priests April 3 announcing that the suspension of public Masses would continue through April 30.

In the letter, he said, "Even though we are apart physically as we adhere to social distancing and other safety and health precautions, I pray you remember that we are all united in one as the Body of Christ."

The bishop is live-streaming a Mass every Sunday at 10 a.m. on Facebook and at www.diokzoo.org.

Further, a schedule of live-streaming of Masses at churches across the diocese is available on the diocesan website or on Facebook.

Brian Bennett, lead pastor at Overflow Church in Benton Township, said Overflow is streaming all weekend services and weekly group events online during the quarantine to its Facebook page and a platform on its website that is designed for online church.

"We were really blessed that we launched our new online church platform March 8. Truly God's timing looking back, with what we know now," Bennett said. "We have had some technical issues over the past few weeks as internet bandwidth nationwide has been stretched, as well as our staff being stretched to learn new technology. The majority of the issues have been minor, and things we are continuing to learn from and improve on. Each week is getting better and better."

Bennett said Overflow has averaged around 300 people for the past year or so when gathering in person.

"We have seen our online church platform grow to more than 500 per week over the past month," he said.

Bennett said Overflow froze all non-essential spending March 15 in preparation for the pandemic.

"We take stewardship very seriously and have been blessed that our giving overall has been stable the past few weeks. We are continuing to adjust our expenses for the summer and are positioning as much as we can to be a blessing online and with community outreach during the pandemic.

Like other pastors, Bennett said the church has noted a bright spot, with online attendance increasing.

"We moved all of our connect groups and Bible studies online. They are being well-attended, with some of them experiencing more than 100 percent growth online over the past 30 days," he said.

Bennett said Overflow is using Facebook live, Facebook groups and Google Hangouts, depending on the group or event.

Pastors say Easter was especially difficult. The largest event Overflow had to cancel was the Southwest Michigan Egg Drop, a new event featuring a helicopter that is now set for April 3, 2021. More than 800 people had pre-registered for this year's now-canceled event.

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Don Campbell / HP staff

Like many churches across the country, The Shore Church in St. Joseph has been forced to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering services online.

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